

TCS-420.1P US

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/7529762  
not yet assignedTRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

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| INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.<br>PCT/US98/22145  | INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE<br>20 October 1998 | PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED<br>20 October 1997 |
| TITLE OF INVENTION<br>XENOGENEIC CHOLESTERYL ESTER TRANSFER PROTEIN (CETP) FOR MODULATION OF CETP ACTIVITY |  |  |
| APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US<br>C. Rittershaus and L. Thomas  |  |  |

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1.  This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2.  This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3.  This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4.  A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5.  A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a.  is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b.  has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c.  is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6.  A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7.  Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
  - a.  are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b.  have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c.  have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d.  have not been made and will not be made.
8.  A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9.  An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10.  A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

## Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11.  An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12.  An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13.  A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
- A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14.  A substitute specification.
15.  A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16.  Other items or information:
  - a. Copy of published application
  - b. Copy of International Preliminary Examination Report, with attachments
  - c. verified statement re: small entity status
  - d. Printed copy of sequence listing with computer-readable copy on diskette
  - e. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.82 (f)

APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR 1.51)  
not yet assignedINTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO  
PCT/US98/22145ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER  
TCS-420.1P US

091529762

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

 The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5) ) :**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$970.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$840.00

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$760.00

 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$670.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$96.00

**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$ 670.00**Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than  20  30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

| CLAIMS                                      | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA | RATE  |
|---|--------------|--------------|---|
| Total claims                                | 92           | - 20 =       | 72  |
|   |              |              | X \$18.00                                       |
| Independent claims                          | 17           | - 3 =        | 14  |
|   |              |              | X \$78.00                                       |
| MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) |              |              | + \$260.00                                      |
|   |              |              | \$ 260.00                                       |
|   |              |              | <b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$ 2648.00</b> |

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement

must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).

| SUBTOTAL = \$ 1324.00 |  |
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Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than 20  30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

| TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$ 1324.00 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
|---------------------------------|--|

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be

accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **\$40.00** per property

| TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$ 1324.00 |  |
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| Amount to be: | \$ |
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|          |    |
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| refunded | \$ |
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| charged | \$ |
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a.  A check in the amount of \$ 1324.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. (check #3078)b.  Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-0268 in the amount of \$ 1324.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.c.  The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0268. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

Leon R. Yankwich  
Yankwich & Associates  
130 Bishop Allen Drive  
Cambridge, MA 02139
  
SIGNATURE:

Leon R. Yankwich

NAME

30,237

REGISTRATION NUMBER

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: C. Rittershaus and  
L. Thomas

Serial No.: (not yet assigned)

Filed: (concurrently herewith)

Entitled: Xenogeneic Cholesteryl Ester  
Transfer Protein (CETP) for  
Modulation of CETP Activity

Atty. Docket No.: TCS-420.1P\_US

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 C.F.R. 1.9(f) AND 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am:

The owner of the small business concern identified below:  
 An official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern  
identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN AVANT Immunotherapeutics, Inc.

ADDRESS OF CONCERN 119 Fourth Avenue, Needham, MA 02494

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 C.F.R. 121.1301-1305, and reproduced in 37 C.F.R. 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that all rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention of inventor(s) Rittershaus & Thomas described in:

The specification filed herewith.  
 PCT international application No. PCT/US98/22145,  
filed 20-OCT-98 and designating the United States.

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights to the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who could not qualify as a small entity under 37 C.F.R. 1.9(f) or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 C.F.R. 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 C.F.R. 1.9(e).

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 C.F.R. 1.27)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
[ ] INDIVIDUAL    [ ] SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN    [ ] NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 C.F.R. 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Avery Catlin  
TITLE OF PERSON OTHER THAN OWNER Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer  
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING Avant Immunotherapeutics, Inc., 119 Fourth Ave., Needham, MA 02494

SIGNATURE 

DATE April 7, 2009

XENOGENEIC CHOLESTERYL ESTER  
TRANSFER PROTEIN (CETP) FOR MODULATION  
OF CETP ACTIVITY

## 5 Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation-in-part application of United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/954,643, filed 20 October 1997.

## 10 Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the field of cardiovascular disease, particularly atherosclerosis. More particularly, the present invention provides compositions and methods for the control, treatment, or reduction of the risk of atherogenic activity in the circulatory system of mammals, particularly humans.

## 15 Background of the Invention

Cholesterol circulates through the body predominantly as a component of lipoprotein particles (lipoproteins), which are composed of a protein portion, called apolipoproteins (Apo) and various lipids, including phospholipids, triglycerides, cholesterol and cholestryl esters. There are ten major classes of apolipoproteins: Apo A-I, Apo A-II, Apo-IV, Apo B-48, Apo B-100, Apo C-I, Apo C-II, Apo C-III, Apo D, and Apo E. Lipoproteins are classified by density and composition. For example, high density lipoproteins (HDL), one function of which is to mediate transport of cholesterol from peripheral tissues to the liver, have a density usually in the range of approximately 1.063-1.21 g/ml. HDL contain various amounts of Apo A-I, Apo A-II, Apo C-I, Apo C-II, Apo C-III, Apo D, Apo E, as well as various amounts of lipids, such as cholesterol, cholestryl esters, phospholipids, and triglycerides (TG).

20 In contrast to HDL, low density lipoproteins (LDL), which generally have a density of approximately 1.019-1.063 g/ml, contain Apo B-100 in association with various lipids. In particular, the amounts of the lipids, cholesterol, and cholestryl esters are considerably higher in LDL than in HDL when measured as a percentage of dry mass. LDL are particularly important in delivering cholesterol to peripheral tissues.

30 Very low density lipoproteins (VLDL) have a density of approximately 0.95-1.006 g/ml and also differ in composition from other classes of lipoproteins both in their protein and lipid content. VLDL generally have a much higher amount of triglycerides than do HDL or

5 LDL and are particularly important in delivering endogenously synthesized triglycerides from liver to adipose and other tissues. The features and functions of various lipoproteins have been reviewed (see, for example, Mathews and van Holde, *Biochemistry*, pp. 574-576 and 626-630 (The Benjamin/Cummings Publishing Co., Redwood City, California, 1990); Havel et al., "Introduction: Structure and metabolism of plasma lipoproteins", in *The Metabolic Basis of Inherited Disease*, 6th ed., pp. 1129-1138 (Scrivener et al., eds.) (McGraw-Hill, Inc., New York, 1989); Zannis et al., "Genetic mutations affecting human lipoproteins, their receptors, and their enzymes", in *Advances in Human Genetics*, Vol. 21, pp. 145-319 (Plenum Press, New York, 1993)).

10 Decreased susceptibility to cardiovascular disease, such as atherosclerosis, is generally correlated with increased absolute levels of circulating HDL, with lowered levels of LDL or VLDL, and also with increased levels of HDL relative to circulating levels of VLDL and LDL (see, e.g., Gordon et al., *N. Engl. J. Med.*, 321: 1311-1316 (1989); Castelli et al., *J. Am. Med. Assoc.*, 256: 2835-2838 (1986); Miller, et al., *Am. Heart J.*, 113: 589-597 (1987); Tall, *J. Clin. Invest.*, 89: 379-384 (1990); Tall, *J. Internal Med.*, 237: 5-12 (1995)).

15 Cholesteryl ester transport protein (CETP) mediates the transfer of cholesteryl esters from HDL to TG-rich lipoproteins such as VLDL and LDL, and also the reciprocal exchange of TG from VLDL to HDL (Tall, *ibid.*; Tall, *J. Lipid Res.*, 34: 1255-1274 (1993); Hesler et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 262: 2275-2282 (1987); Quig et al., *Ann. Rev. Nutr.*, 10: 169-193 (1990)). CETP may play a role in modulating the levels of cholesteryl esters and triglyceride associated with various classes of lipoproteins. A high CETP cholesteryl ester transfer activity has been correlated with increased levels of LDL-associated cholesterol and VLDL-associated cholesterol, which in turn are correlated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease (see, e.g., Tato et al., *Arterioscler. Thromb. Vascular Biol.*, 15: 112-120 (1995)).

20 CETP isolated from human plasma is a hydrophobic glycoprotein having 476 amino acids and a molecular weight of approximately 66,000 to 74,000 daltons on sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)-polyacrylamide gels (Albers et al., *Arteriosclerosis*, 4: 49-58 (1984); Hesler et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 262: 2275-2282 (1987); Jarnagin et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 84: 1854-1857 (1987)). A cDNA encoding human CETP has been cloned and sequenced (see, Drayna et al., *Nature*, 327: 632-634 (1987)). CETP has been shown to bind cholesteryl esters, tryglicerides, phospholipids (Barter et al., *J. Lipid Res.*, 21:238-249 (1980)), and lipoproteins (see, e.g., Swenson et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 264: 14318-14326 (1989)). More recently, the

region of CETP defined by the carboxyl terminal 26 amino acids, and in particular amino acids 470 to 475, has been shown to be especially important for neutral lipid binding involved in neutral lipid transfer (Hesler et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 263: 5020-5023 (1988)).

5       Hereinafter, LDL-C will be used to refer to total cholesterol, including cholestryl esters and/or unesterified cholesterol, associated with low density lipoprotein. VLDL-C will be used to refer to total cholesterol, including cholestryl esters and/or unesterified cholesterol, associated with very low density lipoprotein. HDL-C will be used to refer to total cholesterol, including cholestryl esters and/or unesterified cholesterol, associated with high density lipoprotein.

10      A number of *in vivo* studies utilizing animal models or humans have indicated that CETP activity can affect the level of circulating cholesterol-containing HDL. Increased CETP cholestryl ester transfer activity can produce a decrease in HDL-C levels relative to LDL-C and/or VLDL-C levels which in turn is correlated with an increased susceptibility to atherosclerosis. Injection of partially purified human CETP into rats (which normally lack CETP activity), resulted in a shift of cholestryl ester from HDL to VLDL, consistent with CETP-promoted transfer of cholestryl ester from HDL to VLDL (Ha et al., *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 833: 203-211 (1985); Ha et al., *Comp. Biochem. Physiol.*, 83B: 463-466 (1986); Gavish et al., *J. Lipid Res.*, 28: 257-267 (1987)). Transgenic mice expressing human CETP were reported to exhibit a significant decrease in the level of cholesterol associated with HDL (see, e.g., Hayek et al., *J. Clin. Invest.*, 90: 505-510 (1992); Breslow et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 90: 8314-8318 (1993)). Furthermore, whereas wild-type mice are normally highly resistant to atherosclerosis (Breslow et al., *ibid.*), transgenic mice expressing a simian CETP were reported to have an altered distribution of cholesterol associated with lipoproteins, namely, elevated levels of LDL-C and VLDL-C and decreased levels of HDL-C (Marotti et al., *Nature*, 364: 73-75 (1993)). Transgenic mice expressing simian CETP also were more susceptible to dietary-induced severe atherosclerosis compared to non-expressing control mice and developed atherosclerotic lesions in their aortas significantly larger in area than those found in the control animals and having a large, focal appearance more typical of those found in atherosclerotic lesions in humans (Marotti et al., *ibid.*). Intravenous infusion of anti-human CETP monoclonal antibodies (Mab) into hamsters and rabbits inhibited CETP activity *in vivo* and resulted in significantly increased levels of HDL-C, decreased levels of HDL-triglyceride, and increased HDL size; again implicating a critical role for CETP in the

distribution of cholesterol in circulating lipoproteins (Gaynor et al., *Atherosclerosis*, 110: 101-109 (1994) (hamsters); Whitlock et al., *J. Clin. Invest.*, 84: 129-137 (1989) (rabbits)).

CETP deficiency has also been studied in humans. For example, in certain familial studies in Japan, siblings that were homozygous for non-functional alleles of the CETP gene had no detectable CETP activity. Virtually no atherosclerotic plaques were exhibited by these individuals, who also showed a trend toward longevity in their families (see, e.g., Brown et al., *Nature*, 342: 448-451 (1989); Inazu et al., *N. Engl. J. Med.*, 323: 1234-1238 (1990); Bisgaier et al., *J. Lipid Res.*, 32: 21-23 (1991)). Such homozygous CETP-deficient individuals also were shown to have an anti-atherogenic lipoprotein profile as evidenced by elevated levels of circulating HDL rich in cholesteryl ester, as well as overall elevated levels of HDL, and exceptionally large HDL, i.e., up to four to six times the size of normal HDL (Brown et al., *supra*, p. 451). The frequency of this mutation in Japan is relatively high, and may account for an elevated level of HDL in a significant fraction of the Japanese population.

The above studies indicate that CETP plays a major role in transferring cholesteryl ester from HDL to VLDL and LDL, and thereby in altering the relative profile of circulating lipoproteins to one which is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease (e.g., decreased levels of HDL-C and increased levels of VLDL-C and LDL-C). Taken together, the current evidence suggests that increased levels of CETP activity may be predictive of increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Modulation or inhibition of endogenous CETP activity is thus an attractive therapeutic method for modulating the relative levels of lipoproteins to reduce or prevent the progression of, or to induce regression of, cardiovascular diseases, such as atherosclerosis.

In our previous work, detailed, e.g., in commonly assigned, copending patent application PCT/US96/06147 (WO 96/34888) and commonly assigned copending patent application PCT/US97/07294 (WO 97/41227), both incorporated herein by reference, we detailed an approach for modulating the CETP activity in an individual via vaccination with a peptide composition or with a plasmid-based vaccine that would lead to the production of antibodies recognizing and neutralizing endogenous CETP. We demonstrated that administration of immunogenic peptides either by direct inoculation or by *in situ* production following injection of a functional plasmid-based vaccine resulted in production of antibodies reactive with the inoculated individual's own (endogenous) CETP. Thus the vaccine peptides and the plasmid-based vaccines break tolerance in the vaccinated individuals and to promote

5 production of antibodies recognizing a self protein. Furthermore, administration of these vaccines to test animals resulted in a decline in the relative levels of total cholesterol and HDL-C and resulted in a decrease in the development of atherosclerotic lesions. The elicited endogenous anti-CETP antibodies thus promote a physiological condition correlated with decreased risk of cardiovascular disease, and they appear to have a direct effect on preventing or decreasing the formation of atherosclerotic plaques.

10 We have now discovered another approach to eliciting the production of anti-CETP antibodies in a mammal. We have now determined that whole CETP molecules of another mammal, that is, non-endogenous CETP, can be used to elicit antibodies in a mammal that will be reactive with its own, endogenous CETP and serve to modulate the activity of CETP and to provide lowered circulating CETP activity, lowered total cholesterol, lowered 15 circulating LDL levels, elevated ratios of HDL-C to LDL-C. The use of non-endogenous CETP to promote production of anti-endogenous CETP antibodies also leads to a reduction in development of atherosclerotic lesions in comparison to unvaccinated controls.

#### 20 **Summary of the Invention**

Accordingly, the present invention provides compositions and methods useful for the 25 modulation or inhibition of cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) activity. In particular, the use of non-endogenous CETPs, including xenogeneic CETPs, is described as a means, when administered to a mammal, to raise an antibody response against the mammal's own endogenous CETP and thereby to promote a prophylactic or therapeutic effect against cardiovascular disease, such as atherosclerosis. Such non-endogenous CETP can be CETP of another mammalian species (xenogeneic CETP), such as rabbit CETP, mouse CETP or simian CETP for administration to a human; the non-endogenous CETP can be a non-endogenous allelic variation or polymorph of a mammalian CETP administered to the same species of mammal (e.g., a human CETP polymorph administered to another human); or the non-endogenous CETP can be a CETP from one species modified to have an amino acid sequence more similar to the native CETP of another species (e.g., a "humanized" rabbit CETP for administration to a human).

30 Vaccine compositions and plasmid-based vaccines are described which, when suitably administered to a mammal result in the production of antibodies reactive with the mammal's endogenous CETP and the other benefits described herein.

The invention provides methods for eliciting antibodies in a mammal that will be reactive with its own, endogenous CETP, for modulating the activity of CETP in a mammal, and for providing in a mammal lowered circulating CETP activity, lowered total cholesterol, lowered circulating LDL levels, and/or elevated ratios of HDL-C to LDL-C. The invention provides a method for reducing or preventing in a mammal the development of atherosclerotic lesions.

#### Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1A-C. An alignment of the amino acid sequences of mature rabbit CETP (SEQ ID NO: 3) with mature human CETP (SEQ ID NO: 1). The rabbit CETP is shown over the aligned human CETP sequence. The rabbit sequence includes 20 more amino acid residues than the human sequence, and the human sequence shows a 1-amino acid and a 19-amino acid gap (indicated with dashes, ---, in the human sequence) in order to show the residue matches (indicated with a vertical line, |) most clearly.

Figure 2. Shows the end point titers of antibodies from rabbit plasma recognizing the C-terminal peptide of rabbit CETP from rabbits vaccinated with human chorionic gonadotropin ("HCG Vaccine"), a synthetic vaccine peptide having segments of tetanus toxoid and the C-terminal sequence of human CETP ("Peptide Vaccine", see SEQ ID NO: 7), and full-length recombinant human CETP ("rhuCETP"). The figure shows maximum anti-CETP antibody titers achieved for each rabbit in an ELISA detecting plasma antibodies specific for rabbit CETP C-terminal peptide (amino acids 477-496).

Figure 3. Shows inhibition of CETP activity in a commercial fluorescence-based assay (Roar Biomedical, Yonkers, New York) by protein A-isolated antibodies from the plasma of vaccinated rabbits from Groups I-III (see Examples, *infra*). The graph shows percent inhibition achieved in each of the vaccinated rabbits.

Figure 4. Shows the CETP activity in the vaccinated rabbits from week 1 to week 32.

Figure 5. Shows the percentage change in total cholesterol levels in the vaccinated rabbits from week 1 to week 12.

Figure 6. Shows the HDL-associated cholesterol levels in the vaccinated rabbits from week 1 to week 32.

Figure 7. Shows the percentage change in LDL-associated cholesterol levels in the vaccinated rabbits from week 1 to week 12.

Figure 8. Shows the plasma lipoprotein levels for a rabbit vaccinated with non-endogenous CETP(recombinant human CETP, or rhuCETP). "V" indicates the periodic vaccination boosts. HDL-associated cholesterol, total cholesterol level, and triglyceride level were assayed.

5 Figure 9. Shows a correlation between CETP activity and HDL as a percent of total lipoproteins and total CETP mass, in a rabbit vaccinated with non-endogenous CETP (rhuCETP)

10 Figure 10. Shows the levels of cholesterol deposits in the irises of 48 rabbits vaccinated with human chorionic gonadotropin ("HCG", rabbits #1-#12), a synthetic vaccine peptide having segments of tetanus toxoid and the C-terminal sequence of human CETP ("Peptide", see SEQ ID NO: 7, rabbits #13-#24), full-length recombinant human CETP ("rhuCETP", rabbits #25-#36), and a CETP-tetanus toxoid conjugate composition.("Conjugate", rabbits #37-#48). The irises of each rabbit have been scored based on the percentage of deposits observed from 0-5, 0 representing no deposits and 5 representing 100% deposits observed in the iris of the animal.

15 Figure 11. Shows percentage of the aorta covered by lesions observed in vaccinated rabbits fed an atherogenic diet. Values of individual animals are represented by open symbols.

20 Figure 12. Shows anti-CETP antibody titers for mice vaccinated with various plasmid-based vaccines.

Figure 13A-K. Shows antibody titers of 11 rabbits vaccinated with pSV40-HuCETP between weeks 1-32. The open diamond and open square symbols refer to the antibody titers of the rabbits on weeks 30 and 34 respectively.

25 Figure 14. Shows the effect of plasmid vaccination on the development of aortic lesions. The figure compares the mean percentages collected for control rabbits (pSV40 plasmid without the CETP coding sequence) and rabbits vaccinated with pSV40-huCETP.

#### **Detailed Description of the Invention**

As noted above, a decreased risk of atherosclerosis has been correlated with relatively low circulating levels of LDL and VLDL and relatively high levels of HDL. The levels of such circulating lipoproteins are directly influenced, at least in part, by the endogenous levels 30 of CETP activity. In particular, high CETP activity promotes transfer of neutral lipids, such

as cholesteryl esters from HDL to VLDL and LDL. Accordingly, CETP is a relatively precise target in humans and other animals for altering the relative levels of LDL, VLDL and HDL in the circulatory system (see, e.g., Tato et al., *Arteriosclero. Thromb. Vascular Biol.*, 15: 112-120 (1995); Tall, *J. Internal Med.*, 237: 5-12 (1995)). This invention is directed to the control of endogenous CETP activity by providing non-endogenous CETP molecules to an individual, for promoting an immune response in such individuals against their endogenous CETP, thereby promoting a physiological condition (e.g., increased level of HDL or decreased level of LDL) correlated with a decreased risk of atherosclerosis. In addition, promoting an immune response against endogenous CETP using the vaccine compositions of this invention can provide, prevent, or inhibit the progression of lesions in tissue susceptible to atherosclerosis.

#### Compositions for Modulation of CETP Activity

As used herein, a CETP vaccine composition for use according to the invention contains as an essential ingredient a CETP or a portion thereof, that is non-endogenous with respect to the mammal to be vaccinated. For the purposes of this invention, "non-endogenous CETP" means a cholesteryl ester transfer protein that is not the native CETP produced by the mammal to be vaccinated. For example, with respect to a human subject, non-endogenous CETP will include CETP produced by another mammalian species, i.e., xenogeneic CETP, such as rabbit, mouse or simian CETP; or non-endogenous CETP with respect to a particular human subject can be an allelic variant or polymorphism of human CETP, such as CETP produced by another human individual.

The non-endogenous CETP can also be a xenogeneic CETP that has been modified in order to make the amino acid sequence of the modified CETP more similar to that of the endogenous CETP of the mammal to be vaccinated. The term used herein to describe such modified non-endogenous CETP is "mammalianized CETP". This term is used with reference to the mammal to be vaccinated, and it means a non-endogenous CETP that has been modified to have an amino acid content more similar to the native CETP of said mammal. An example of a mammalianized CETP, where the subject to be vaccinated is a human, would be a rabbit CETP modified (or "humanized") to have an amino acid sequence more similar to the native human sequence. As a further example, reference is made to Figures 1A, 1B and 1C, which show the respective amino acid sequences of rabbit CETP (SEQ ID NO: 3) and human CETP (SEQ ID NO: 1) in alignment.

Referring to Figures 1A-1C, it is seen that the structure of these two mammalian CETPs is similar, having the same amino acids at 80% of the positions of human CETP. Rabbit CETP (SEQ ID NO: 3) is 20 amino acids longer than human CETP (SEQ ID NO: 1), and the alignment of the two proteins in Figures 1A-1C shows two segments, denoted with dashes (----), where the proteins do not correspond structurally. With respect to a human subject to be administered a non-endogenous CETP in accordance with this invention, an example of a "mammalianized" non-endogenous CETP would be a rabbit CETP in which the 19-amino acid segment from amino acid Ala<sub>393</sub> through Ala<sub>411</sub> of rabbit CETP has been deleted, making the modified CETP (see SEQ ID NO: 5) 477 amino acids in length and thus more similar to the human CETP (SEQ ID NO: 1). Since the mammal of this example is a human, another term for such a modified CETP or mammalianized non-endogenous CETP would be a "humanized rabbit CETP".

Again referring to Figures 1A-1C, a further example of a humanized rabbit CETP would be a CETP as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6. In Figure 1C it is noted that in the C-terminal portion of the human and rabbit CETPs there is only one difference in the respective amino acid sequences, i.e., Lys<sub>485</sub> of the rabbit CETP corresponds to Glu<sub>465</sub> in the human CETP.

In practicing the methods of the present invention, non-endogenous CETP is administered to a mammal in an amount effective to elicit an immune response. As is common in the field, more than one administration may be necessary or desirable to obtain a high enough concentration of anti-endogenous CETP antibodies in the mammal to affect endogenous CETP activity.

Immunogenicity of a vaccine peptide of this invention may be further enhanced by linking the immunogenic non-endogenous CETP to itself or to a related protein homologous to CETP. In this approach, a dimer could be formed, with the dimer providing a multi-chain protein that is even more immunogenic than the non-endogenous CETP alone. Examples of proteins related to CETP that might be used in this approach include, for example, phospholipid transfer protein and neutrophil bactericidal protein (see, Day et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 269: 9388-91 (1994); Gray et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 264: 9505-9509 (1989)).

Other immunogenic carrier molecules such as keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH) may also be used in combination with the non-endogenous CETP. For example, KLH contains multiple lysine residues in its amino acid sequence. Each of these lysines is a potential site at

which a CETP molecule as described herein could be linked (for example, using maleimidic-activated KLH, Catalog No. 77106, Pierce, Rockford, IL), to provide a multivalent non-endogenous CETP immunogen. Another example of an immunogenic carrier molecule is hsp70 from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which has been shown to be an especially potent antigen containing multiple B and T cell epitopes (see, e.g., Suzue and Young, *J. Immunol.*, 156: 873 - 879 (1996)). The hsp70 protein can be linked by standard cross-linking agents to non-endogenous CETPs to enhance immunogenicity of the vaccine compositions.

Other peptides can be conjugated with the non-endogenous CETP molecules to provide a source of helper T cell epitopes and boost the immunogenicity of the vaccine compositions according to the invention. Such peptides include, for example, "universal" antigenic peptides, e.g., tetanus toxoid or diphtheria toxoid, especially the tetanus toxoid fragment: Gln Tyr Ile Lys Ala Asn Ser Lys Phe Ile Gly Ile Thr Glu (amino acids 2 to 15 of SEQ ID NO: 7).

Pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, such as alum, may be mixed with the non-endogenous CETPs described herein to produce vaccine compositions of this invention. Alum is the single adjuvant currently approved for use in administering vaccines to humans (see, Eldridge et al., in Immunobiology of Proteins and Peptides V: Vaccines: Mechanisms, Design, and Applications (Atassi, M.Z., ed.)(Plenum Press, New York, 1989), page 192). Alum in combination with a sodium phthalyl derivative of lipopolysaccharide can also be used (see, Talwar et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 91: 8532-8536 (1994)). Other conventional adjuvants may be used as they are approved for a particular use. For example, biodegradable microspheres comprised of poly (DL-lactide-co-glycolide) (Eldridge et al., *supra*, pp. 191-202); Freund's Complete Adjuvant (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Missouri), Freund's Incomplete Adjuvant (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Missouri), and the RIBI<sup>TM</sup> Adjuvant System (RAS; RIBI ImmunoChem Research, Inc., Hamilton, Montana); lipophilic N-palmitoyl-S-[2,3-bis(palmitoyloxy)-propyl]-cysteine ("Pam<sub>3</sub>-Cys-OH"); amphiphilic, water-soluble lipopeptides such as Pam<sub>3</sub>-Cys-Ser-Lys<sub>4</sub> and Pam<sub>3</sub>-Cys-Ser-Glu<sub>4</sub>; glycopeptides such as N-acetyl-glucosaminyl-N-acetylmuramyl-alanyl-D-isoglutamine ("GMDP"), muramyl dipeptides, and alanyl-N-adamantyl-D-glutamine; and polyamide gel-based adjuvants which can easily be attached to CETP peptides during their *in vitro* chemical synthesis (see, Synthetic Vaccines (Nicholson, ed.) (Blackwell Scientific Publications, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1994), pp. 236-238).

Where helper T cell epitope molecules or adjuvant species are to be physically linked or conjugated with the non-endogenous CETP, the CETP can be covalently linked directly or via a cross-linker molecule.

Suitable cross-linking molecules include amino acids, for example, using one or more glycine residues to form a "glycine bridge" between the CETP and the carrier or adjuvant molecule. Also contemplated are the formation of disulfide bonds between cysteine residues, or the use of cross-linking molecules such as glutaraldehyde (see, Korn et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 65: 525-529 (1972)) and EDC (Pierce, Rockford, IL) or other bifunctional cross-linker molecules. Bifunctional cross-linker molecules possess two distinct reactive sites; one of the reactive sites can be reacted with a functional group on the CETP and the other reactive site can be reacted with a functional group on the carrier or adjuvant molecule, uniting the two. General methods for cross-linking molecules are reviewed by Means and Feeney (*Bioconjugate Chem.*, 1: 2-12 (1990)).

Homobifunctional cross-linker molecules have two reactive sites which are chemically the same. Examples of homobifunctional cross-linker molecules include glutaraldehyde; N,N'-bis(3-maleimido-propionyl)-2-hydroxy-1,3-propanediol (a sulphydryl-specific homobifunctional cross-linker); certain N-succinimide esters, such as disuccinimidyl suberate and dithio-bis-(succinimidyl propionate) and their soluble bis-sulfonic acids and salts (e.g., as available from Pierce Chemicals, Rockford, Illinois; or Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Missouri).

Preferably, the bifunctional cross-linker molecule is a heterobifunctional linker molecule, meaning that the linker molecule has at least two reactive sites that can be separately covalently attached to the non-endogenous CETP and the carrier or adjuvant molecule. Heterobifunctional cross-linker molecules that may be used include m-maleimidobenzoyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester; m-maleimido-benzoylsulfosuccinimide ester;  $\gamma$ -maleimidobutyric acid N-hydroxysuccinimide ester; and N-succinimidyl 3-(2-pyridyl-dithio)propionate.

The non-endogenous CETP for use according to this invention can be produced by any of the available methods known in the art to produce proteins of defined amino acid sequence. For example, automated peptide synthesis is available to those skilled in the art by using automated peptide synthesizers (e.g., Synergy<sup>TM</sup> Peptide Synthesizer by Applied Biosystems; AMS 422 by Abimed, Langenfeld, Germany). Synthesis of such proteins to

order is performed as a commercial service by many commercial peptide synthesizing service companies, e.g., Quality Controlled Biochemicals, Inc., (Hopkinton, Massachusetts); Chiron Mimotopes Peptide Systems (San Diego, California); Bachem Bioscience, Inc. (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania); Severn Biotech Ltd. (Kidderminster, England).

5 Alternatively, the proteins of this invention may be produced using synthetic and recombinant nucleic acid technology. For example, one of ordinary skill in the art can design from the known genetic code a 5' to 3' nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein of this invention. The amino acid sequence for a mature human CETP is known (SEQ ID NO: 1), as well as its corresponding DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO: 2) (see, Drayna et al., *Nature*, 327: 10 632 - 634 (1987)). Furthermore, the amino acid sequence for a mature rabbit CETP is known (SEQ ID NO: 3), as well as its corresponding DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO: 4) (see, Nagashima et al., *J. Lipid. Res.*, 29: 1643 - 1649 (1988)). A DNA molecule containing the coding sequences of desired CETP (or a modified "mammalianized" CETP as described above) can readily be synthesized either using an automated DNA synthesizer (e.g., Oligo 1000 DNA Synthesizer, Beckman Corp.) or by contracting with a commercial DNA synthesizing service (e.g., Genset Corp., La Jolla, California).

15 The synthesized or cloned DNA molecule can then be inserted into any of a variety of available gene expression systems (e.g., bacterial plasmids; bacteriophage expression vectors, retroviral expression vectors, baculoviral expression vectors), using standard methods available in the art (e.g., Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Vols. 1-20 3 (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, 1989)) and/or as directed by the manufacturer of a particular commercially available gene expression system (e.g., pPROEX<sup>TM</sup>-1 bacterial cell expression system; SFV eukaryotic cell expression system; CHO (Chinese Hamster Ovary cells) expression system; BAC-TO-BAC<sup>TM</sup> baculovirus expression system; Life Technologies, Inc., Gaithersburg, Maryland). Especially preferred for the 25 expression of CETP is the CHO expression system. The expressed CETP can then be isolated from the expression system using standard methods to purify proteins.

Purification of the non-endogenous CETPs of this invention may be expedited by 30 employing affinity chromatography or immunoprecipitation based on using antibodies to the particular CETP domain. For example, the Mab TP2 (Hesler et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 263: 5020-5023 (1988)) binds to the carboxyl terminal 26 amino acids of human CETP, and could be useful in one or more immunoaffinity steps in a purification scheme. Another method that

could be used in the purification of the proteins is standard column chromatography (Weinberg et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 269: 29588-29591 (1994)).

5 The non-endogenous CETPs as described herein are used to make vaccines compositions that elicit, when administered to a mammal, production of endogenous antibodies which specifically bind to endogenous CETP of the mammal and/or modulate (i.e., decrease or inhibit) endogenous CETP activity in the mammal. The anti-CETP vaccine compositions of this invention may contain one or several different non-endogenous CETPs.

10 In addition, the non-endogenous CETP may be linked to other molecules that may enhance the immunogenicity of the peptides.

15 The vaccine compositions for administration of non-endogenous CETP according to this invention can also advantageously take the form of plasmid-based vaccines for producing non-endogenous CETP *in situ*, eliciting autoantibodies directed to endogenous CETP. Such plasmid-based vaccines are, specifically, DNA plasmids which are administered (for example, by intramuscular injection or intradermal ballistic administration) to an individual. The administered DNA plasmids encode and direct the production of immunogenic non-endogenous CETP. We have discovered that such immunogenic CETP elicits the production of autoantibodies that react specifically with (i.e., bind to) endogenous CETP in the individual.

20 An example of a recombinant plasmid that can be used to produce a non-endogenous CETP for use according to this invention is plasmid pCMV-CETP/TT in which the CMV promoter directs transcription of a sequence encoding a vaccine peptide described in the previously mentioned PCT/US96/06147. *E. coli* bearing plasmid pCMV-CETP/TT has been deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Rockville, MD) and assigned Accession No. 98038. DNA coding for a desired CETP can be inserted in place of the 25 vaccine peptide coding sequence in pCMV-CETP/TT and used for the expression of full-length CETP molecules.

30 The production of anti-CETP antibodies promotes a physiological state associated with a decreased risk of cardiovascular disease. The beneficial modulation of CETP activity produced by the DNA vaccines is evidenced by a significantly decreased or eliminated CETP activity; by an anti-atherogenic lipoprotein profile (for example, an increase in the level of HDL or HDL-C compared to LDL, LDL-C, VLDL, or VLDL-C); or by an inhibition

(including prevention) or decrease in the development of atherosclerotic lesions in cardiovascular tissue, such as the aorta.

General methods of administering and testing vaccines are well known to those skilled in the art (see, e.g., Talwar et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 91: 8532-8536 (1994)). The immune response to endogenous CETP should significantly inhibit CETP activity, alter the serum half-life of CETP, cause clearance CETP through formation of immune complexes, alter the trafficking of HDL-cholesterol, shift the equilibrium of cholesterol content of lipoproteins, alter cholesterol catabolism, and/or reduce development of atherosclerotic lesions. Control of LDL, VLDL and/or HDL levels is an accepted indicator or endpoint in treatment of cardiovascular disease, as these levels are correlated with a decreased risk of cardiovascular disease or further progression of such disease (see, e.g., Mader, in *Human Biology*, 4th ed., pp. 83, 102 (Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, Iowa, 1995)). Accordingly, the desired prophylactic or therapeutic effect according to this invention is evidenced by eliciting antibodies in an individual that bind to endogenous CETP and/or inhibit endogenous CETP activity, or by a relative decrease in LDL and/or VLDL levels compared to HDL levels as the titer of antibody directed against the endogenous CETP rises, or by a decrease of absolute levels of circulating LDL and/or VLDL with the production of anti-CETP antibodies, or by an inhibition or decrease in development of atherosclerotic lesions in cardiovascular tissue.

As demonstrated herein, administration of non-endogenous CETP in a rabbit model of atherosclerosis led to a significant decrease in the development of atherosclerotic plaques. This evidence indicates that vaccination to elicit antibodies to endogenous CETP may be a useful method of treating or preventing atherosclerosis.

The successful use of non-endogenous CETP to elicit anti-endogenous CETP antibodies and to modulate the activity of native CETP was surprising in a number of respects. Previously, the use of whole CETP molecules had been avoided, since it was not known whether introduction of a whole, non-endogenous CETP molecule would provide the desired immunogenic effects. For example, non-endogenous CETP might function perfectly well as a CETP and exacerbate already undesirable cholesterol levels and metabolism. In addition, it was contemplated that full-length CETP molecules might contain immunogenic segments that would elicit antibodies capable of reacting or interfering with proteins or receptors outside of the CETP metabolic pathway, resulting in dangerous cross-reactions or

side-effects. Finally, it was not known whether introduction of a non-endogenous CETP would be able to break tolerance in the subject vaccinated, leading to production of antibodies reactive not with (or not *only* with) the non-endogenous CETP but with the *native* CETP. These uncertainties have now been resolved.

5 The non-endogenous CETP vaccine compositions may be administered by any route used for vaccination, including: parenterally such as intraperitoneally, interperitoneally, intradermally, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, intravenously or orally. Preferably, the vaccines of this invention are administered parenterally, e.g., intraperitoneally, interperitoneally, subcutaneously, intradermally, intramuscularly, or intravenously. If oral 10 administration of a vaccine peptide is desired, any pharmaceutically acceptable oral excipient may be mixed with the vaccine peptides of this invention, for example, such as solutions approved for use in the oral polio vaccine. As with certain other vaccines, such as for tetanus, an occasional booster administration of the CETP vaccine compositions may be necessary to produce or maintain a desired level of modulation or inhibition of endogenous CETP. 15 Biodegradable microspheres, such as those comprised of poly (DL-lactide-co-glycolide), have been shown to be useful for effective vaccine delivery and immunization via oral or parenteral routes.

Appropriate dosages of the non-endogenous CETP may be established by general 20 vaccine methodologies used in the art based on measurable parameters for which the vaccine is proposed to affect, including monitoring for potential contraindications, such as hypersensitivity reaction, erythema, induration, tenderness (see, e.g., Physician's Desk Reference, 49th ed., (Medical Economics Data Production Co., Mont Vale, New Jersey, 1995), pp. 1628, 2371 (referring to hepatitis B vaccine), pp. 1501, 1573, 1575 (referring to measles, mumps, and/or rubella vaccines), pp. 904, 919, 1247, 1257, 1289, 1293, 2363 25 (referring to diphtheria, tetanus and/or pertussis vaccines)) ; Talwar, G.P., et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 91:* 8532-8536 (1994)). A common and traditional approach for vaccinating humans is to administer an initial dose of a particular vaccine to sensitize the immune system and then follow-up by one or more "booster" doses of the vaccine to elicit an anamnestic 30 response by the immune system that was sensitized by the initial administration of the vaccine (vaccination). Such a "primary and booster" administration procedure has been well known and commonly used in the art, as for example, in developing and using measles, polio, tetanus, diphtheria, and hepatitis B vaccines.

Initially, the amount of a vaccine composition administered to an individual may be that required to neutralize the approximate level of endogenous CETP activity present in the individual prior to vaccination, as can be determined by measuring CETP activity in serum or plasma samples from the individual, for example as determined using a commercially available CETP assay (e.g., Roar Biomedical., Yonkers, New York). Plasma or serum samples from a vaccinated individual can also be monitored to determine whether a measurable increase in the levels of total HDL or HDL-C is seen after administration of the non-endogenous CETP using commercially available assays (e.g., available from Sigma Diagnostics, Inc., Saint Louis, Missouri). A rise in the concentration (titer) of circulating anti-CETP antibodies can be measured in plasma or serum samples, for example using an ELISA assay. Thus, it is possible and recommended that initially it be established whether a rise in anti-CETP antibody can be correlated with an increase in the level of HDL or HDL-C, a decrease in LDL or VLDL, or with a decrease in CETP activity. Thereafter, one need only monitor a rise in titer of anti-CETP antibody to determine whether a sufficient dosage of vaccine peptide has been administered or whether a "booster" dose is indicated to elicit an elevated level of anti-CETP antibody. This is the common procedure with various established vaccinations, such as vaccination against hepatitis B virus.

Three-dimensional arterial imaging methods are currently available which can be used to identify arterial lesions and monitor their development or regression in an individual (see, for example, McPherson, *Scientific American Science & Medicine*, pages 22-31, (March/April, 1996)). Thus such imaging methods can be used to monitor the effectiveness of vaccination according to the methods of this invention.

A more complete appreciation of this invention and the advantages thereof can be obtained from the following non-limiting examples.

#### **EXAMPLE 1**

##### Immunization of Rabbits Against Endogenous CETP

Four vaccine preparations were made for injection into four groups of twelve New Zealand White Rabbits, to test the ability of the vaccine preparation to elicit an immune response against endogenous rabbit CETP. Group I (negative control) contained rabbits #1 - #12, each of which was injected with a vaccine composition containing an irrelevant antigen, human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG). Group II (comparative embodiment of

PCT/US96/06147) contained rabbits #13 - #24, each of which was injected with a vaccine peptide having a portion of the C-terminus of human CETP and a portion of tetanus toxoid ("Peptide"; see, SEQ ID NO: 7). Group III (this invention) contained rabbits #25 - #36, each of which received a vaccine composition containing whole recombinant human CETP ("rhuCETP"). Group IV (this invention) contained rabbits #37 - #48, each of which received a vaccine composition containing whole recombinant human CETP conjugated with whole tetanus toxoid using a chemical crosslinker ("Conjugate").

The general protocol for vaccinating and testing the rabbits was as follows: On Day 1, each rabbit received one subcutaneous injection of a composition containing 200 µg of immunogen in Complete Freund's Adjuvant (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Missouri). Each composition suspended the respective immunogen in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and emulsified with complete Freund's adjuvant (1:1) to yield a final concentration of 100 µg/100 µl. Each rabbit was administered the vaccine mixture in a 200 µl dose (200 µg immunogen) at one subcutaneous site. A boost of 200 µg of immunogen in Incomplete Freund's Adjuvant (Sigma Chemical Co.) was administered as on Day 1 at Day 28 and Day 49. Blood samples (approximately 1-5 ml) were withdrawn from the ear of each rabbit (prior to injections) on Days 1 ("prebleed"), 28, 49, 105, 147 and 217. Blood plasma samples were prepared by standard centrifugation methods to separate cellular components from the plasma. Plasma samples were stored at -70° C. Plasma samples of both Groups I and II were analyzed for presence of and increase in titer of anti-CETP antibodies and for CETP activity, CETP mass, and plasma levels of various lipoprotein components (HDL, LDL, triglycerides).  
Direct ELISA for Titering Anti-CETP Antibodies

A sandwich enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) was used to titer plasma samples containing anti-CETP antibody. A biotinylated C-terminal peptide (20 amino acids) of rabbit CETP was adsorbed to wells of a microtiter dish coated with streptavidin, and various dilutions of rabbit plasma from the rabbits of Groups I - III were added to each well. Non-specific binding can be blocked by adding a 1% solution of BSA in PBS and 0.05% Tween to each well and incubating for 2 hours at room temperature (20 -22° C) on a rotating shaker at 150 rpm. The wells were then washed four times with ELISA wash buffer (PBS + 0.05% Tween). Plasma samples were then diluted in dilution buffer (e.g. 1% BSA in PBS), followed by serial dilutions in the same buffer. Diluted samples (100 µl) were added to the wells, incubated for 1.5-2 hours at room temperature on a rotating shaker at 150 rpm, and

then washed 4 times with ELISA wash buffer (PBS + 0.05% Tween). To detect bound anti CETP antibodies, 100  $\mu$ l of an optimized dilution of horseradish peroxidase (HRP) labeled goat anti-rabbit immunoglobulin (Southern Biotechnology Associates, Inc.; Birmingham, Alabama; or Jackson Immunoresearch, Inc.; West Grove, Pennsylvania) in dilution buffer was added, and the plates were incubated for 2 hours at room temperature on a rotating shaker at 150 rpm. The wells were then washed four times with ELISA wash buffer (see above), peroxidase substrate TMB (TMB peroxidase substrate, Kirkegaard & Perry Laboratories, Inc., Gaithersburg, Maryland) was added, and the plates were incubated 30 minutes at room temperature. Change in optical density was monitored spectrophotometrically at 450 nm using an ELISA reader (e.g., E-max, Molecular Device Corp., Menlo Park, California). In this assay, the O.D. was directly proportional to the amount of anti-CETP antibodies present in the plasma samples.

The results of the assay for each of the rabbit groups is shown in Figure 2. Group I showed no plasma antibodies detecting the rabbit C-terminal CETP peptide, whereas the groups vaccinated with CETP immunogens (Groups II, III) showed significant titers of anti-CETP antibodies in almost all vaccinated rabbits. Analysis of the Group IV data is in progress.

#### CETP Activity and Neutralization Assays

In order to measure the activity of CETP in plasma, a commercial fluorescence-based assay (Roar Biomedical Inc.; Yonkers, New York) was used. Incubation of a CETP source (rhuCETP, huCETP or rabbit CETP) with the donor and acceptor particles, included in the kit, results in the CETP-mediated transfer of a fluorescent neutral lipid. This fluorescent neutral lipid is present in a self-quenched state when contained within the core of the donor. The CETP-mediated transfer is determined by the increase in fluorescence intensity as the fluorescent neutral lipid is removed from the self-quenched donor to the acceptor. To measure neutralization, anti-CETP antibodies are isolated from the plasma of vaccinated rabbits with protein A. Identical amounts (measured by A280) of the antibodies from various samples are added to the above reaction.

Figure 3 shows inhibition of CETP activity by rabbit antibodies collected from the plasma of the vaccinated rabbits. The bar designated "Positive Control Mab" refers to anti-CETP monoclonal antibody TP2, which is known to inhibit CETP activity in vitro and is

included for comparison. Figure 4 shows the change in CETP activity in Groups I and III from week 1 to week 32. Analysis of the Group IV data is in progress.

#### Cholesterol and HDL Levels in Plasma Samples of Vaccinated Rabbits

The plasma samples taken from rabbits of Groups I - IV were also assayed for the concentration of total cholesterol (Figure 5), HDL-C (Figure 6), and triglycerides (see Figure 8) using standard commercial assays (Sigma Diagnostics, Inc., Saint Louis, Missouri). LDL-C (Figure 7) is calculated as total cholesterol minus HDL-C minus  $0.2 \times$  tryglyceride level. CETP levels were determined by a slot blot analysis using anti-CETP monoclonal antibody TP2 and chemiluminescences for detection. The band intensities obtained with various amounts of plasma samples were quantified with the aid of a Kodak® DC40 camera and 1D Image Analysis software (version 1.6), then compared to that obtained with known amounts of purified human CETP loaded on the same nitrocellulose filter.

The plasma lipoprotein profile for the Group III rabbit #32, which showed the most pronounced reduction in LDL-C levels (Fig. 7) is shown in Figure 8. The profile shows a dramatic rise in HDL as a percent of the total lipoprotein profile. Figure 9 shows, for this rabbit, the correlation between decreasing CETP activity, decreasing cholesterol mass and increasing HDL as a percentage of total lipoprotein.

#### Measurement of cholesterol deposits in the irises of vaccinated rabbits

The rabbits from Groups I - IV were also assayed for the amount of cholesterol deposits detected in the irises. A scale of cholesterol deposition in the iris was established, with 0 = no deposit, 1 = 20%, 2 = 40%, 3 = 60%, 4 = 80%, and 5 = 100% deposits on this iris (i.e., iris completely covered with deposits). One iris per rabbit was evaluated and scored for degree of cholesterol deposition. The groups of animals were blinded to the scorer to avoid bias. Figure 10 shows the data collected from all 48 animals. The Xs indicate animals for which no data were obtained (rabbit #34, #39, and #42); these animals were euthanized due to unrelated complications such as furballs. The data indicate that all CETP vaccinated groups had statistically less cholesterol deposits than the control group.

#### Quantitation of lesions in aorta of vaccinated rabbits

The rabbits were switched from a diet of basic rabbit chow to diets supplemented with 0.25% cholesterol (w/w) known to produce atherosclerotic-like lesions in rabbits (Daley et al., *Arterioscler. Thromb.*, 14: 95 - 104 (1994)). To determine whether the vaccination may affect the development of atherosclerosis, the aortas of these rabbits were examined for the

development of atherosclerotic lesions. After blood samples were taken on the last day, rabbits were sacrificed. The entire aortas from each of Groups I-IV were removed and placed into fixative solution (3.7 % v/v formaldehyde). Loose tissue, adherent fat, and the adventitia were dissected free from the arteries. Each artery was then cut lengthwise, pinned flat to expose the intimal (luminal) surface, stained with Sudan IV, and then photographed. Sudan IV is a fat soluble red dye that stains atherosclerotic plaques on the intimal surface of arteries. Figure 11 summarizes the results of this experiment. The stained aortas of rabbits vaccinated with human chorionic gonadotropin ("HCG") revealed a prevalence of atherosclerotic lesions along the length of the aortas and particularly in the portion of the aortas from the thoracic region. In contrast, the aortas of rabbits vaccinated with a synthetic vaccine peptide having segments of tetanus toxoid and the C-terminal sequence of human CETP ("Peptide", see SEQ ID NO: 7), full-length recombinant human CETP ("rhuCETP"), and a CETP-tetanus toxoid conjugate composition ("Conjugate") had lower incidence of lesions, including the portion of the aorta from the thoracic region.

To quantitate the noticeable difference in the presence of atherosclerotic lesions in the aortas of rabbits or lack thereof, the total surface area of the pinned aortas and that of the aortic lesions was determined from photographs by planar morphometry (Daley et al., 1994) using a digitizing tablet with associated software (THE MORPHOMETER™, Woods Hole Educational Associates, Woods Hole, Massachusetts). The percentage of the surface area of the aortas covered by lesions was determined and the percentages are represented in Figure 11.

## EXAMPLES 2 and 3

### Plasmid-based Vaccines in Mice and Rabbits

Four groups of mice were vaccinated intramuscularly with one of the following:

1. pCMV: a plasmid vector having the cytomegalovirus immediate early promoter/enhancer but without any operably-linked structural gene
2. pCIII-huCETP: a plasmid vector having the full coding sequence for human CETP (SEQ ID NO: 1) under the transcriptional control of the human Apo CIII promoter
3. pSV40-huCETP: a plasmid vector having the full coding sequence for human CETP under the transcriptional control of the SV40 promoter

4. pCMV-TT-rabCETP: a plasmid vector having a tetanus toxoid peptide (amino acid 2 to 15 of SEQ ID NO: 7) coding sequence and the full coding sequence for rabbit CETP (SEQ ID NO: 3) under the transcriptional control of the cytomegalovirus immediate early promoter/enhancer

5 The mice were injected once with 25  $\mu$ l of PBS containing 100  $\mu$ g of the plasmid and blood samples were periodically collected and were analyzed with an ELISA detecting anti-human CETP antibodies with the method described below:

10 Plastic 96-well microtiter plates were coated with Protein A/G, by incubating 100  $\mu$ l of a 5  $\mu$ g/ml PBS solution per well overnight at 4°C. The plates were emptied and the wells were blocked with 200  $\mu$ l of blocking buffer (PBS with 4% BSA, 1% sucrose, 0.5% NP-40, 0.01% Gentamycin) for 2 to 8 hours at room temperature. Antibodies from the plasma samples were captured on the Protein A/G by incubating 100  $\mu$ l of various dilutions of the samples for 1 hour at room temperature. Following washing of the wells, biotinylated CETP was captured by the plate bound antibodies by incubating 100  $\mu$ l of a biotinylated CETP solution at room temperature for 1 hour. The bound CETP was detected by incubating 100  $\mu$ l of a streptavidin-HRP solution for 30 minutes at room temperature, followed by adding 100  $\mu$ l of substrate, stopping the reaction with 0.18M sulfuric acid and reading the optical density at 450 nm. Figure 12 shows that plasmids delivered to Groups 2, 3, and 4 produce immunogenic xenogeneic protein.

20 Subsequently, rabbits were vaccinated with 300  $\mu$ g (equally split in six intramuscular sites in the quadriceps) of a vector carrying the human CETP coding sequence under the transcriptional control of the SV40 promoter enhancer (SV40-huCETP) or the same vector without the CETP coding sequence (SV40). The primary injection occurred on Day 1 with an identical boost on weeks 5, 8, 26, and 30. Blood samples were taken periodically throughout the experiment and animals were terminated on week 34.

25 The plasma samples from the vaccinated rabbits were subjected to the ELISA for detection of antibodies to whole recombinant human CETP, as described above. Figure 13A-K summarizes the titration of the antibody measured in the rabbits vaccinated with the SV40 promoter enhancer (SV40-huCETP) between weeks 1-34. Significant antibody production was detected on weeks 30 and 34, depicted by the open diamond and open square symbols of the graphs, in most animals. Two of the 11 rabbits (Figure 13A, and 13E) were non-responders.

The rabbits were switched from a diet of basic rabbit chow to diets supplemented with 0.25% cholesterol (w/w) known to produce atherosclerotic-like lesions in rabbits. The lesions in rabbits vaccinated with pSV40-huCETP and control rabbits vaccinated with pSV40 were visualized and quantitated as described in Example 1 above. Figure 14 shows the mean percentage of aorta covered with lesions in both groups of rabbits. The results of this experiment are in line with the trend observed with directly vaccinated rabbits (Groups I-IV, see Figure 11), showing a decrease in aortic lesions due to vaccination.

Although a number of embodiments have been described above, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that modifications and variations of the described compositions and methods may be made without departing from either the spirit of the invention or the scope of the appended claims. The articles and publications cited herein are incorporated by reference.

## CLAIMS:

1. A vaccine composition effective to promote production of antibodies binding to endogenous cholesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) in a mammal, consisting essentially of a non-endogenous CETP, optionally in combination with an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.
2. A vaccine composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human and said non-endogenous CETP is selected from the group consisting of rabbit CETP, mouse CETP, simian CETP, humanized rabbit, mouse or simian CETP, and allelic variants or polymorphs of said human's CETP.
3. A vaccine composition effective to promote production of antibodies binding to endogenous cholesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) in a mammal, consisting essentially of a mammalianized non-endogenous CETP, optionally in combination with an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.
4. A vaccine composition as defined in Claim 3, wherein said mammalianized CETP is a humanized rabbit CETP.
5. A vaccine composition as defined in Claim 4, wherein said humanized rabbit CETP has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 5.
6. A vaccine composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein said mammal is a rabbit and said non-endogenous CETP is human CETP.
7. A vaccine composition as defined in Claim 1 or 3, which contains an adjuvant selected from the group consisting of alum, Freund's Complete Adjuvant, Freund's Incomplete Adjuvant, RIBI Adjuvant System.
8. A plasmid-based vaccine comprising a promoter sequence suitable for directing the transcription of a nucleotide sequence in a cell of a mammal operably linked to a nucleotide

sequence coding for a cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) that is non-endogenous to said mammal.

9. A plasmid-based vaccine as defined in Claim 8, wherein said mammal is a human and said non-endogenous CETP is selected from the group consisting of rabbit CETP, mouse CETP, simian CETP, humanized rabbit, mouse or simian CETP, and allelic variants or polymorphs of said human's CETP.

10. A plasmid-based vaccine as defined in Claim 8, wherein said mammal is a human and said non-endogenous CETP is rabbit CETP.

11. A plasmid-based vaccine as defined in Claim 8, wherein said mammal is a human and said non-endogenous CETP is a humanized rabbit CETP.

12. A plasmid-based vaccine as defined in Claim 11, wherein said non-endogenous CETP has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

13. A plasmid-based vaccine as defined in Claim 8, wherein said mammal is a rabbit and said non-endogenous CETP is a human CETP.

14. A plasmid-based vaccine as defined in Claim 8, wherein the promoter is the cytomegalovirus immediate early promoter/enhancer.

15. A method for promoting production in a mammal of antibodies binding the mammal's endogenous CETP comprising administering to the mammal a non-endogenous CETP or a mammalianized non-endogenous CETP, optionally in combination with an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.

16. A method for elevating the ratio of circulating high density lipoprotein-associated cholesterol to circulating low density lipoprotein-associated cholesterol or total cholesterol in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a non-endogenous CETP or a

mammalianized non-endogenous CETP, optionally in combination with an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.

17. A method for decreasing the level of endogenous CETP activity in a human or other animal comprising administering to the mammal a non-endogenous CETP or a mammalianized non-endogenous CETP, optionally in combination with an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.

18. A method for altering the metabolism of low density lipoprotein-associated cholesterol to decrease the development of atherosclerotic lesions in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a non-endogenous CETP or a mammalianized non-endogenous CETP, optionally in combination with an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.

19. A method of lowering the level of circulating low density lipoprotein in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a non-endogenous CETP or a mammalianized non-endogenous CETP, optionally in combination with an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.

20. A method of lowering the level of total circulating cholesterol in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a non-endogenous CETP or a mammalianized non-endogenous CETP, optionally in combination with an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.

21. A method for therapeutically or prophylactically treating atherosclerosis in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a non-endogenous CETP or a mammalianized non-endogenous CETP, optionally in combination with an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.

22. A method according to any of Claims 15-21, wherein the mammal is a human and the non-endogenous CETP is a rabbit CETP.

23. A method according to any of Claims 15-21, wherein said mammalianized CETP is a humanized rabbit CETP.

24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein said humanized rabbit CETP has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 5.

25. A method according to any of Claims 15-21, wherein said CETP is administered in combination with an adjuvant selected from the group consisting of alum, Freund's Complete Adjuvant, Freund's Incomplete Adjuvant, RIBI Adjuvant System.

26. A method for promoting production in a mammal of antibodies reactive with the mammal's endogenous CETP comprising transfecting at least one cell of the mammal with a plasmid-based vaccine according to Claim 8.

27. A method for elevating the ratio of circulating high density lipoprotein-associated cholesterol to circulating low density lipoprotein-associated cholesterol or total cholesterol in a mammal comprising transfecting at least one cell of the mammal with a plasmid-based vaccine according to Claim 8.

28. A method for decreasing the level of endogenous CETP activity in a human or other animal comprising transfecting at least one cell of the mammal with a plasmid-based vaccine according to Claim 8.

29. A method for altering the metabolism of low density lipoprotein-associated cholesterol to decrease the development of atherosclerotic lesions in a mammal comprising transfecting at least one cell of the mammal with a plasmid-based vaccine according to Claim 8.

30. A method of lowering the level of circulating low density lipoprotein in a mammal comprising transfecting at least one cell of the mammal with a plasmid-based vaccine according to Claim 8.

31. A method of lowering the level of total circulating cholesterol in a mammal comprising transfecting at least one cell of the mammal with a plasmid-based vaccine according to Claim 8.

32. A method for therapeutically or prophylactically treating atherosclerosis in a mammal comprising transfecting at least one cell of the mammal with a plasmid-based vaccine according to Claim 8.

33. A method according to any of Claims 26-32, wherein the mammal is a human and the plasmid-based vaccine includes nucleic acid encoding a rabbit CETP.

34. A method according to any of Claims 26-32, wherein the mammal is a human and the plasmid-based vaccine includes nucleic acid encoding a humanized rabbit CETP.

35. A method according to Claims 34, wherein said humanized rabbit CETP has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 5.

36. A method according to any of Claims 26-32, which comprises the additional step of administering to said mammal an adjuvant effective to non-specifically stimulate the immune response of said mammal.

37. A method according to Claim 36, wherein the adjuvant is selected from the group consisting of alum, Freund's Complete Adjuvant, Freund's Incomplete Adjuvant, RIBI Adjuvant System.

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|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Cys Pro Lys Gly Ala Ser Tyr Glu Ala Gly Ile Val Cys Arg Ile Thr Lys Pro Ala Leu Leu Val Leu Asn Gln | 25  |
|   |     |
| Cys Ser Lys Gly Thr Ser His Glu Ala Gly Ile Val Cys Arg Ile Thr Lys Pro Ala Leu Leu Val Leu Asn His |     |
|   |     |
| Glu Thr Ala Lys Val Val Gln Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Gly Tyr Pro Asp Val Ser Gly Glu Arg Ala Val Met | 50  |
|   |     |
| Glu Thr Ala Lys Val Ile Gln Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Ser Tyr Pro Asp Ile Thr Gly Glu Lys Ala Met Met |     |
|   |     |
| Leu Leu Gly Arg Val Lys Tyr Gly Ile His Asn Leu Gln Ile Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu | 75  |
|   |     |
| Leu Leu Gly Gln Val Lys Tyr Gly Ile His Asn Ile Gln Ile Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu |     |
|   |     |
| Ien Val Asp Ala Lys Thr Ile Asp Val Ala Ile Gln Asn Val Ser Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr Leu Asn Tyr Ser | 100 |
|   |     |
| Ien Val Glu Ala Lys Ser Ile Asp Val Ser Ile Gln Asn Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr Leu Lys Tyr Gly         |     |
|   |     |
| Tyr Thr Ser Ala Trp Gly Ile Asn Gln Ser Val Asp Phe Glu Ile Asp Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Gln Ile         | 125 |
|   |     |
| Tyr Thr Ala Trp Trp Ile Asp Gln Ser Ile Asp Phe Glu Ile Asp Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Gln Ile             |     |
|   |     |
| Asn Thr Glu Leu Thr Cys Asp Ala Gly Ser Val Arg Thr Asn Ala Pro Asp Cys Tyr Leu Ala Phe His Lys Leu | 150 |
|   |     |
| Asn Thr Gln Leu Thr Cys Asp Ser Gly Arg Val Arg Thr Asp Ala Pro Asp Cys Tyr Leu Ser Phe His Lys Leu |     |
|   |     |
| Leu Leu His Leu Gln Gly Glu Arg Glu Pro Gly Trp Ile Lys Gln Leu Phe Thr Asn Phe Ile Ser Phe Thr Leu | 175 |
|   |     |
| Leu Leu His Leu Gln Gly Glu Arg Glu Pro Gly Trp Ile Lys Gln Leu Phe Thr Asn Phe Ile Ser Phe Thr Leu |     |

FIG. 1A

Arg Ala Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser Asp Gly Asp Ile Gly Val Asp Ile Ser Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Ile Thr Ala 225  
 Arg Ala Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser Asp Gly Asp Ile Gly Val Asp Ile Ser Val Thr Gly Asp Pro Val Ile Thr Ala  
 Lys Leu Ile Leu Lys Arg Gln Val Cys Asn Glu Ile Asn Thr Ile Ser Asn Ile Met Ala Asp Phe Val Gln Thr 200  
 Lys Leu Val Leu Lys Gly Gln Ile Cys Lys Glu Ile Asn Val Ile Ser Asn Ile Met Ala Asp Phe Val Gln Thr

Thr Tyr Leu Glu Ser His His Lys Gly His Phe Thr His Lys Asn Val Ser Glu Ala Phe Pro Leu Arg Ala Phe 250  
 Ser Tyr Leu Glu Ser His His Lys Gly His Phe Ile Tyr Lys Asn Val Ser Glu Asp Leu Pro Leu Pro Thr Phe

Phe Asp Thr Asn Gln Glu Ile Phe Glu Leu Ser Arg Gly Leu Pro Thr Gly Gln Ala Gln Val Ala Val His  
 Phe Asn Thr Asn Gln Glu Ile Phe Glu Val Val Gly Gly Phe Pro Ser----Gln Ala Gln Val Thr Val His

Cys Leu Lys Val Pro Lys Ile Ser Cys Gln Asn Arg Gly Val Val Ser Ser Val Ala Val Thr Phe Arg 350  
 Cys Leu Lys Met Pro Lys Ile Ser Cys Gln Asn Lys Gly Val Val Asn Ser Ser Val Val Met Val Iys Phe Leu

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FIG. 1B

Ph Pro Arg Pro Asp Gly Arg Glu Ala Val Ala Tyr Arg Phe Glu Glu Asp Ile Ile Thr Val Gln Ala Ser 375  
 Ph Pro Arg Pro Asp Gly Gln His Ser Val Ala Tyr Thr Phe Glu Glu Asp Ile Val Thr Val Gln Val Ser

Tyr Ser Gln Lys Lys Leu Phe Leu His Leu Asp Phe Gln Cys Val Pro Ala Ser Gly Arg Ala Gly Ser Ser 400  
 Tyr Ser Lys Lys Leu Phe Leu Ser Leu Asp Phe Gln Ile Thr Pro-----

Ala Asn Leu Ser Val Ala Leu Arg Thr Glu Ala Lys Ala Val Ser Asn Leu Thr Glu Ser Arg Ser Glu Ser Leu 425  
-----Lys Thr Val Ser Asn Leu Thr Glu Ser Ser Ser Ser Glu Ser Ile

Gln Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Leu Ile Ala Thr Val Gly Ile Pro Glu Val Met Ser Arg Leu Glu Val Ala Phe Thr 450  
 Gln Ser Phe Leu Gln Ser Met Ile Thr Ala Val Gly Ile Pro Glu Val Met Ser Arg Leu Glu Val Val Phe Thr

Ala Leu Met Asn Ser Lys Gly Leu Asp Leu Phe Glu Ile Asn Pro Glu Ile Ile Thr Leu Asp Gly Cys Leu 475  
 Ala Leu Met Asn Ser Lys Gly Val Ser Leu Phe Asp Ile Ile Asn Pro Glu Ile Ile Thr Arg Asp Gly Phe Leu

Leu Leu Gln Met Asp Phe Gly Phe Pro Lys His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser (SEQ ID NO: 3)  
Leu Leu Gln Met Asp Phe Gly Phe Pro Glu His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser (SEQ ID NO: 1)

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FIG. 1C

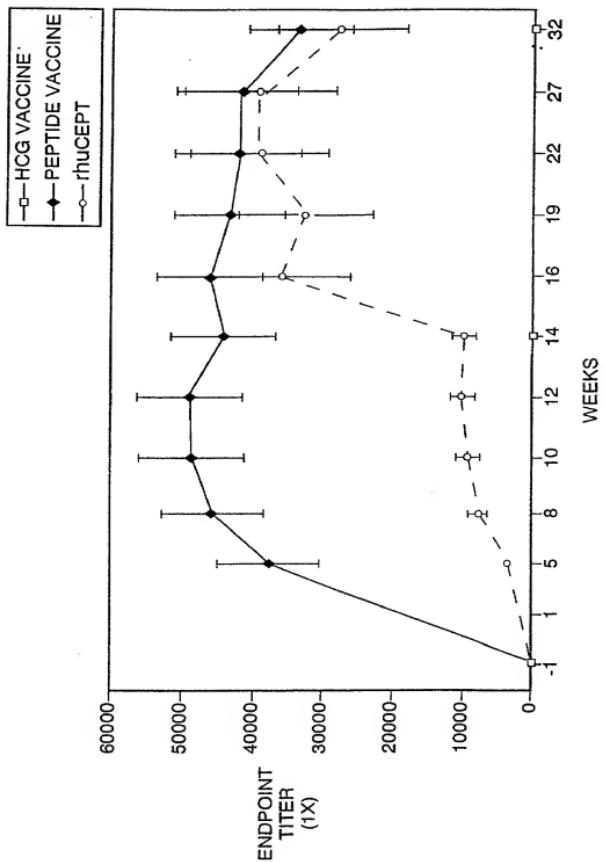


FIG. 2

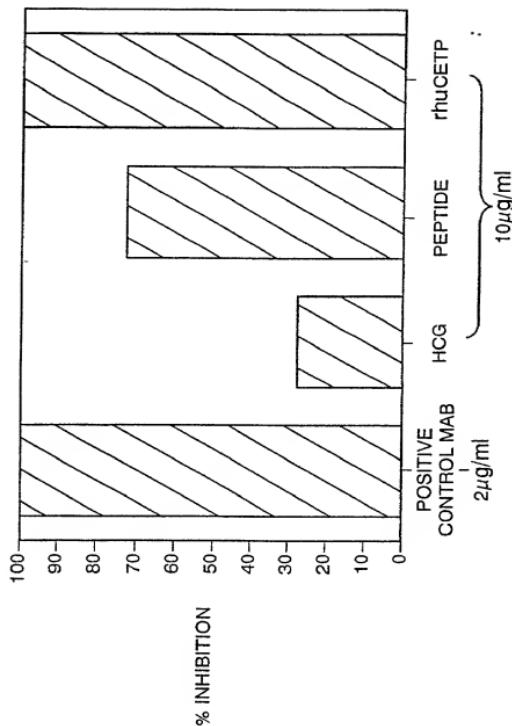


FIG. 3

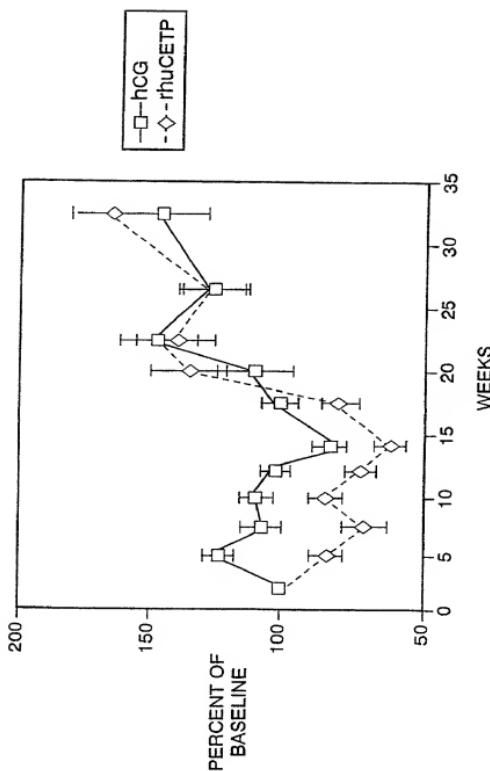


FIG. 4

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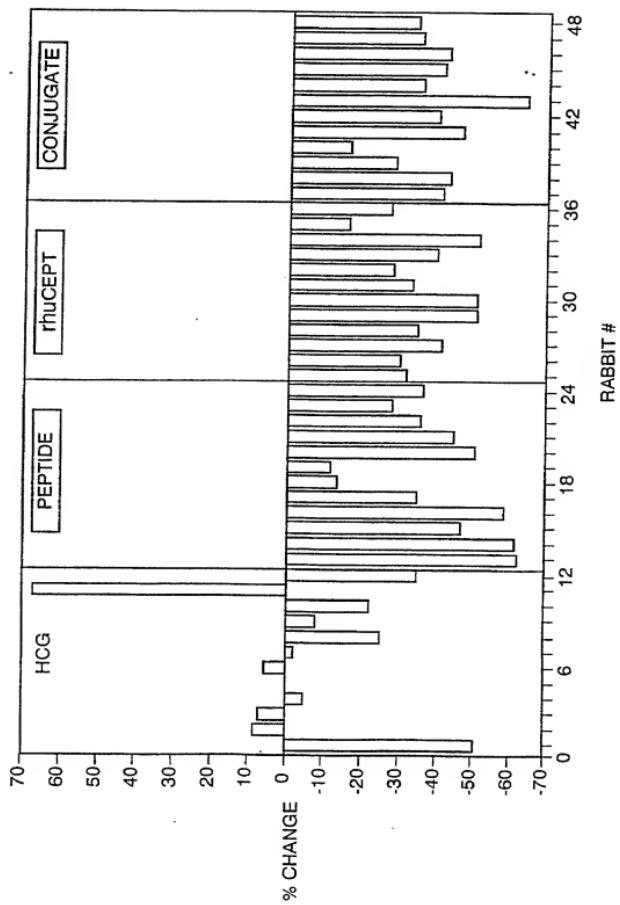


FIG. 5

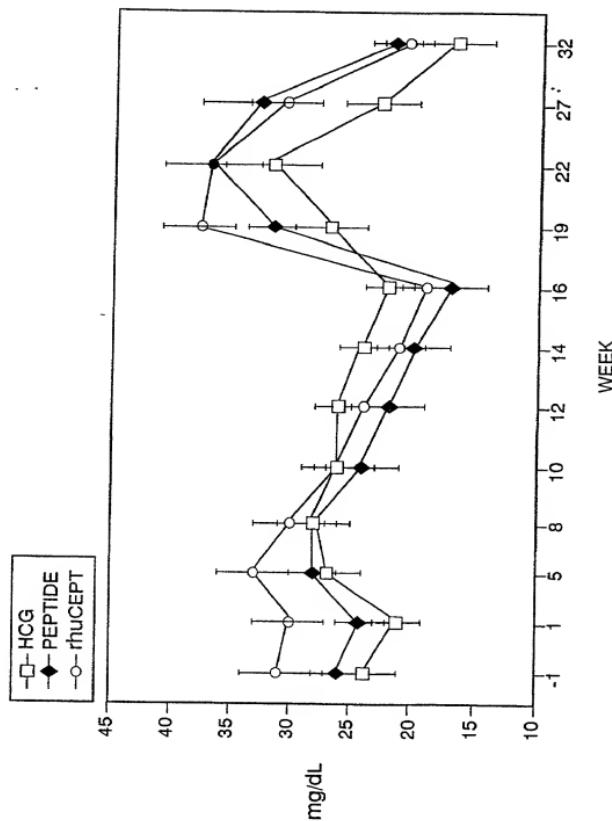


FIG. 6

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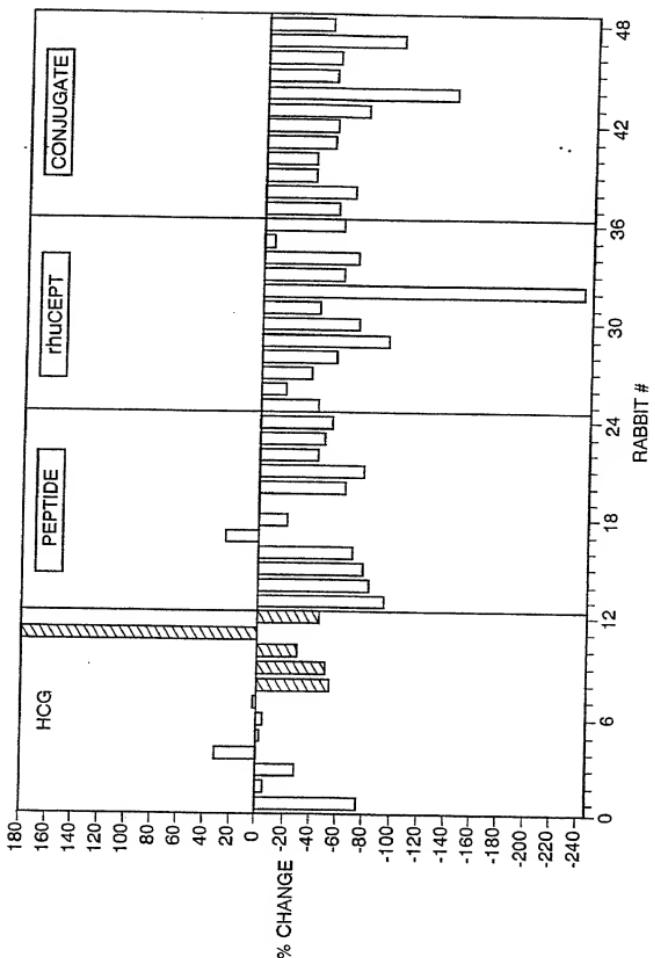


FIG. 7

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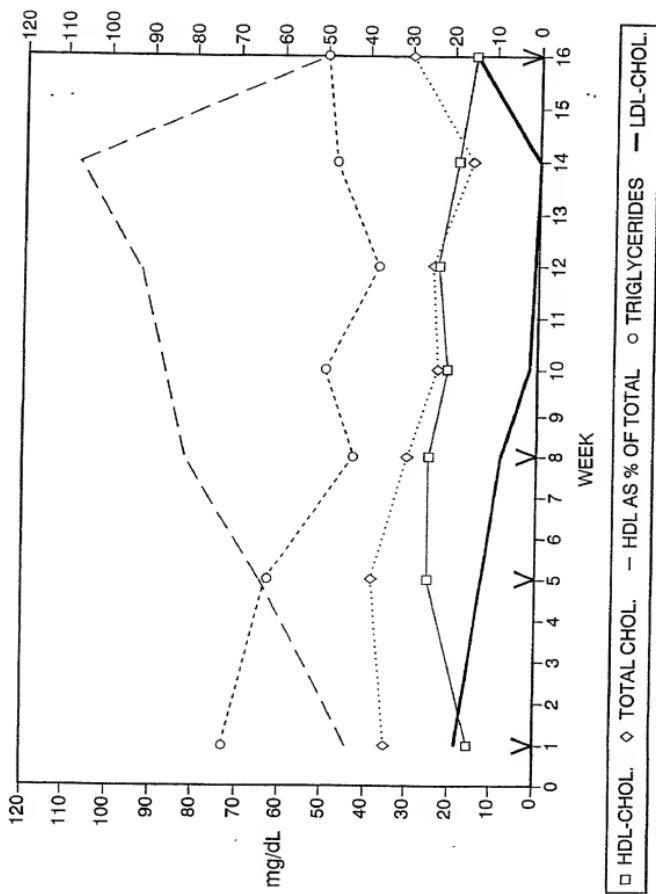


FIG. 8

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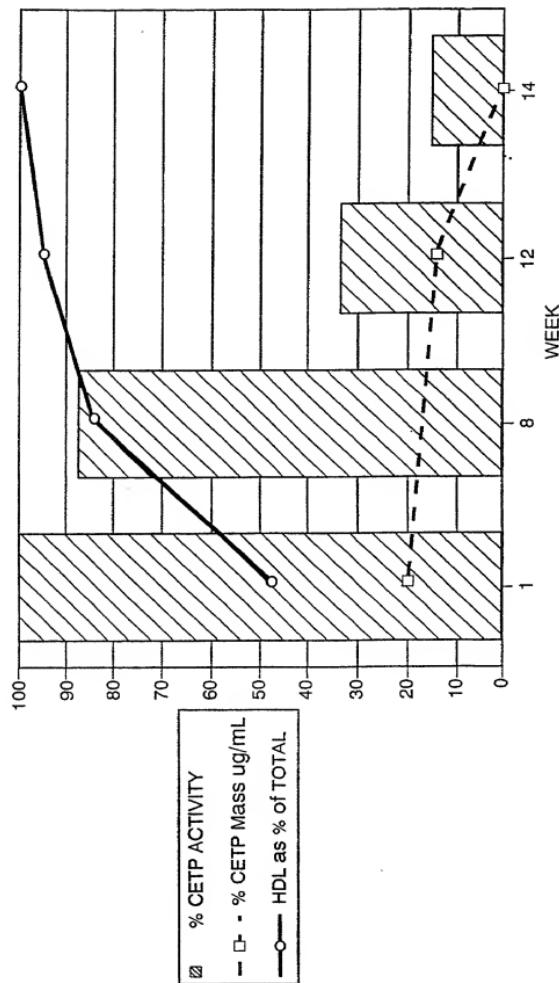


FIG. 9

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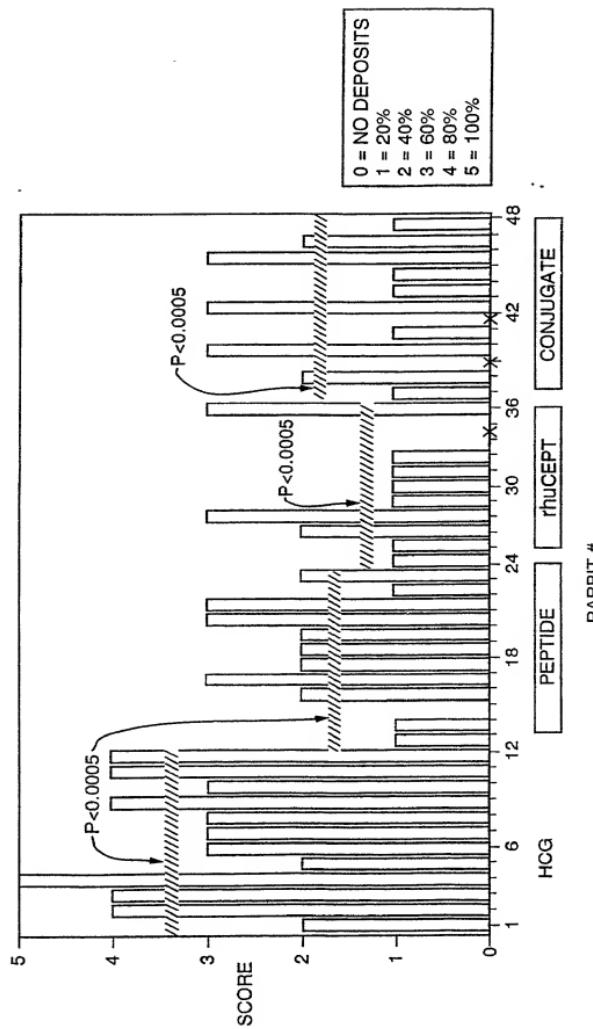
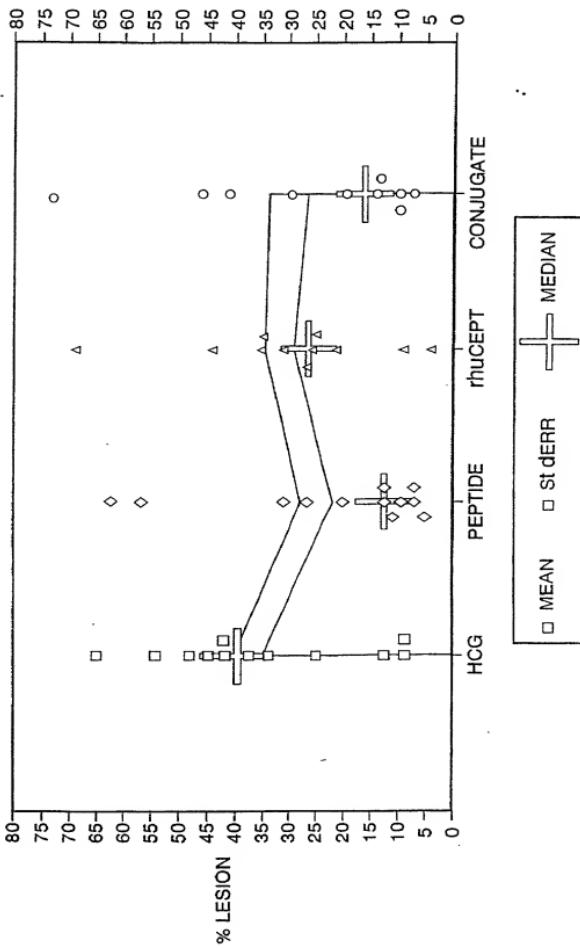
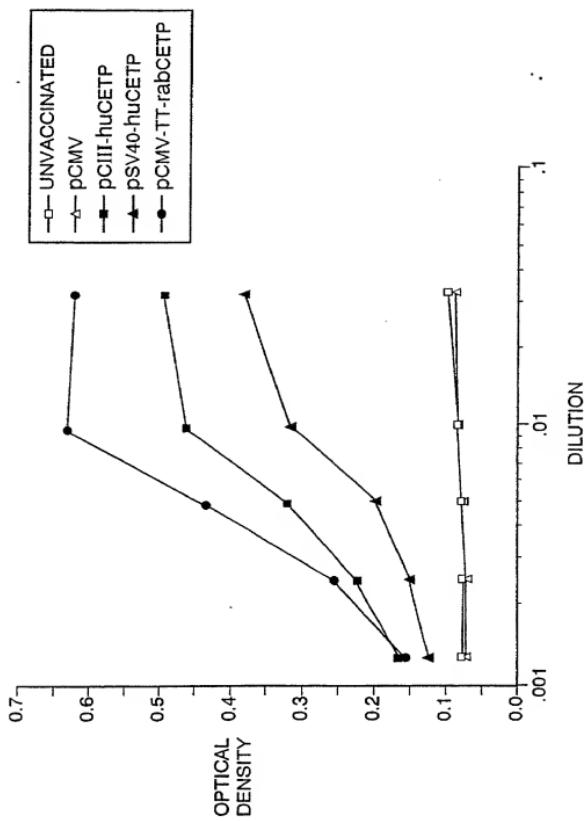


FIG. 10



SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

FIG. 11



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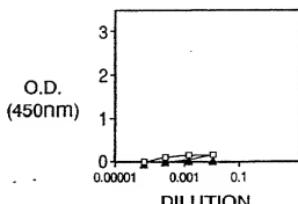


FIG. 13A

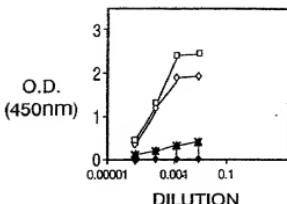


FIG. 13B

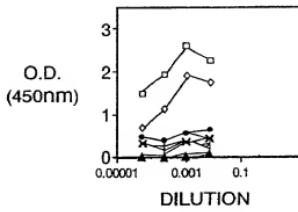


FIG. 13C

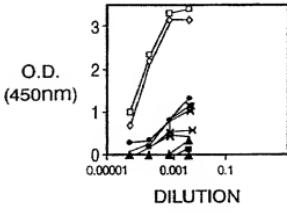


FIG. 13D

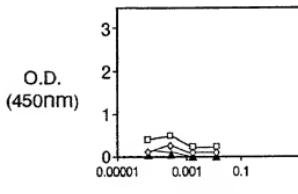


FIG. 13E

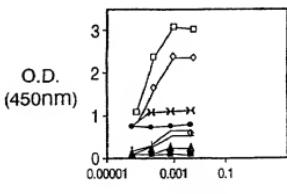


FIG. 13F

- WEEK 1
- WEEK 5
- ▲ WEEK 8
- ★ WEEK 10
- ◆ WEEK 12
- ◆ WEEK 14
- △ WEEK 16
- WEEK 22
- WEEK 26

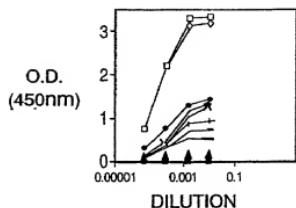


FIG. 13G

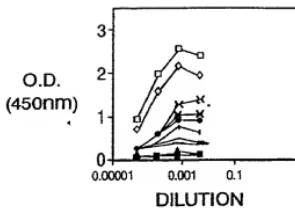


FIG. 13H

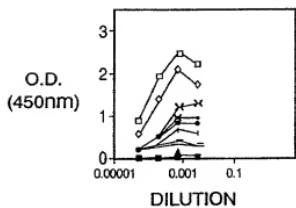


FIG. 13I

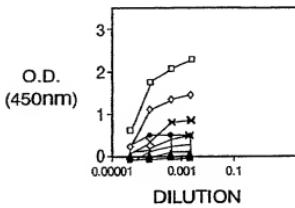


FIG. 13J

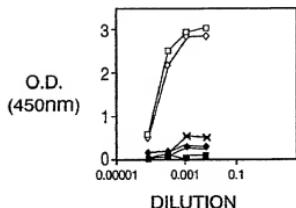


FIG. 13K

- ◆ WEEK 1
- WEEK 5
- ▲ WEEK 8
- ✖ WEEK 10
- ✖ WEEK 12
- WEEK 14
- WEEK 16
- WEEK 22
- WEEK 26
- WEEK 30
- WEEK 34

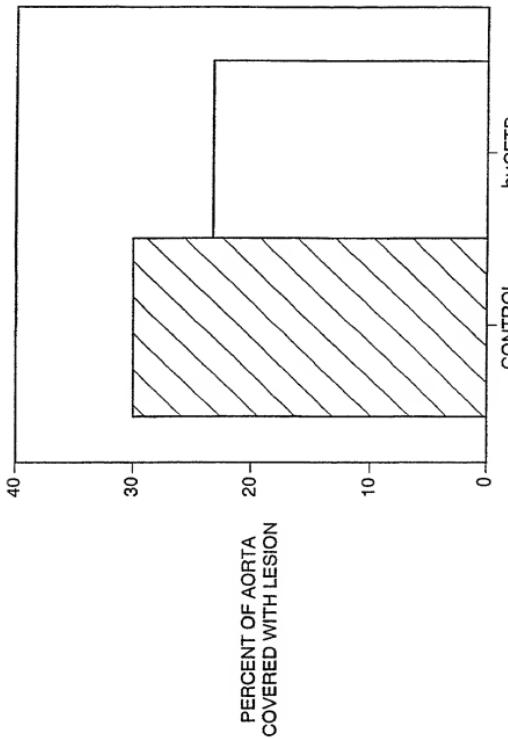


FIG. 14

09/529762

422 Rec'd PCT/PTO 18 APR 2000

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR A PATENT APPLICATION  
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**XENOGENEIC CHOLESTERYL ESTER TRANSFER PROTEIN (CETP)  
FOR MODULATION OF CETP ACTIVITY**

the specification of which:

(check one)  is attached hereto.

was filed as international application PCT/US98/22145 on 20 OCT 1998  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I do not know and do not believe that the invention was ever patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application.

I do not know and do not believe that the invention was in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me on the same subject having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

|  |                    |                                       | Priority<br>Claimed                               |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Ser. No. 08/954,643<br>(converted to 60/109,804) | U.S.A.<br>(Number) | 20-Oct-1997<br>(Day/Month/Year filed) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [ ]<br>Yes No |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States Patent application(s) or PCT international applications designating the United States listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States

or international application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

|   |                                     |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <u>PCT/US98/22145</u><br>(Application Serial No.) | <u>20-Oct-1998</u><br>(Filing Date) | <u>Pending (this application)</u><br>(Status: patented/pending/abandoned) |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|

(4) I hereby appoint

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Leon R. Yankwich   | Reg. No. <u>30,237</u> |
| Thomas R. Berka    | Reg. No. <u>39,606</u> |
| Kenneth P. Zwicker | Reg. No. <u>43,310</u> |
| David G. O'Brien   | Reg. No. <u>46,125</u> |

and the firm of Yankwich & Associates, having an office at 130 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139 as my attorney, with full powers of substitution and revocation and full authority to prosecute this application and to transact all business before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Send all official correspondence to:

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Cambridge, MA 02139

Direct telecommunications to:

Leon R. Yankwich, Esq.  
telephone: (617) 491-4343  
telecopier: (617) 491-8801

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Title 18, United States Code, §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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Second inventor's signature Lawrence J. Thomas 4/12/00

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SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> AVANT Immunotherapeutics, Inc.  
Rittershaus, Charles  
Thomas, Lawrence

<120> Xenogeneic Cholesteryl Ester Transfer Protein (CETP for  
Modulation of CETP Activity

<130> sequence listing for TCS-420.1 PCT

<140> PCT/US98/22145  
<141> 2000-10-20

<150> USSN 08/954,643  
<151> 1997-10-20

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20 25 30

Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Ser Tyr Pro Asp Ile Thr Gly Glu Lys Ala  
35 40 45

Met Met Leu Leu Gly Gln Val Lys Tyr Gly Leu His Asn Ile Gln Ile  
50 55 60

Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Leu Val Glu Ala Lys  
65 70 75 80

Ser Ile Asp Val Ser Ile Gln Asn Val Ser Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr  
85 90 95

Leu Lys Tyr Gly Tyr Thr Thr Ala Trp Trp Leu Gly Ile Asp Gln Ser  
100 105 110

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Ile | Asp | Phe | Glu | Ile | Asp | Ser | Ala | Ile | Asp | Leu | Gln | Ile | Asn | Thr | Gln |
| 115 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Leu | Thr | Cys | Asp | Ser | Gly | Arg | Val | Arg | Thr | Asp | Ala | Pro | Asp | Cys | Tyr |
| 130 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Leu | Ser | Phe | His | Lys | Leu | Leu | Leu | His | Leu | Gln | Gly | Glu | Arg | Glu | Pro |
| 145 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Gly | Trp | Ile | Lys | Gln | Leu | Phe | Thr | Asn | Phe | Ile | Ser | Phe | Thr | Leu | Lys |
| 165 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Leu | Val | Leu | Lys | Gly | Gln | Ile | Cys | Lys | Glu | Ile | Asn | Val | Ile | Ser | Asn |
| 180 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Ile | Met | Ala | Asp | Phe | Val | Gln | Thr | Arg | Ala | Ala | Ser | Ile | Leu | Ser | Asp |
| 195 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Gly | Asp | Ile | Gly | Val | Asp | Ile | Ser | Leu | Thr | Gly | Asp | Pro | Val | Ile | Thr |
| 210 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Ala | Ser | Tyr | Leu | Glu | Ser | His | His | Lys | Gly | His | Phe | Ile | Tyr | Lys | Asn |
| 225 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Val | Ser | Glu | Asp | Leu | Pro | Leu | Pro | Thr | Phe | Ser | Pro | Thr | Leu | Leu | Gly |
| 245 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Asp | Ser | Arg | Met | Leu | Tyr | Phe | Trp | Phe | Ser | Glu | Arg | Val | Phe | His | Ser |
| 260 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Leu | Ala | Lys | Val | Ala | Phe | Gln | Asp | Gly | Arg | Leu | Met | Leu | Ser | Leu | Met |
| 275 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Gly | Asp | Glu | Phe | Lys | Ala | Val | Leu | Glu | Thr | Trp | Gly | Phe | Asn | Thr | Asn |
| 290 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Gln | Glu | Ile | Phe | Gln | Glu | Val | Val | Gly | Gly | Phe | Pro | Ser | Gln | Ala | Gln |
| 305 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Val | Thr | Val | His | Cys | Leu | Lys | Met | Pro | Lys | Ile | Ser | Cys | Gln | Asn | Lys |
| 325 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Gly | Val | Val | Val | Asn | Ser | Ser | Val | Met | Val | Lys | Phe | Leu | Phe | Pro | Arg |
| 340 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Pro | Asp | Gln | Gln | His | Ser | Val | Ala | Tyr | Thr | Phe | Glu | Glu | Asp | Ile | Val |
| 355 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 360 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 365 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |



agctccgagt ccatccagag cttectgcag tcaatgatca cccgctgtggg catccctgag 1260  
gtcatgttc ggctcgaggt agtggttaca gcctcatga acagcaaagg cgtgagcctc 1320  
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Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Gly Tyr Pro Asp Val Ser Gly Glu Arg Ala  
35 40 45

Val Met Leu Leu Gly Arg Val Lys Tyr Gly Leu His Asn Leu Gln Ile  
50 55 60

Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Leu Val Asp Ala Lys  
65 70 75 80

Thr Ile Asp Val Ala Ile Gln Asn Val Ser Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr  
85 90 95

Leu Asn Tyr Ser Tyr Thr Ser Ala Trp Gly Leu Gly Ile Asn Gln Ser  
100 105 110

Val Asp Phe Glu Ile Asp Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Gln Ile Asn Thr Glu  
115 120 125

Leu Thr Cys Asp Ala Gly Ser Val Arg Thr Asn Ala Pro Asp Cys Tyr  
130 135 140

Leu Ala Phe His Lys Leu Leu His Leu Gln Gly Glu Arg Glu Pro  
145 150 155 160

Gly Trp Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe Thr Asn Phe Ile Ser Phe Thr Leu Lys  
165 170 175

Leu Ile Leu Lys Arg Gln Val Cys Asn Glu Ile Asn Thr Ile Ser Asn  
180 185 190

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Ile | Met | Ala | Asp | Phe | Val | Gln | Thr | Arg | Ala | Ala | Ser | Ile | Leu | Ser | Asp |
| 195 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Gly | Asp | Ile | Gly | Val | Asp | Ile | Ser | Val | Thr | Gly | Ala | Pro | Val | Ile | Thr |
| 210 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 215 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 220 |
| Ala | Thr | Tyr | Leu | Glu | Ser | His | His | Lys | Gly | His | Phe | Thr | His | Lys | Asn |
| 225 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 230 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 235 |
| Val | Ser | Glu | Ala | Phe | Pro | Leu | Arg | Ala | Phe | Pro | Pro | Gly | Leu | Leu | Gly |
| 245 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 245 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 255 |
| Asp | Ser | Arg | Met | Leu | Tyr | Phe | Trp | Phe | Ser | Asp | Gln | Val | Leu | Asn | Ser |
| 260 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 265 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 270 |
| Leu | Ala | Arg | Ala | Ala | Phe | Gln | Glu | Gly | Arg | Leu | Val | Leu | Ser | Leu | Thr |
| 275 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 280 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 285 |
| Gly | Asp | Glu | Phe | Lys | Lys | Val | Leu | Glu | Thr | Gln | Gly | Phe | Asp | Thr | Asn |
| 290 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 295 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 300 |
| Gln | Glu | Ile | Phe | Gln | Glu | Leu | Ser | Arg | Gly | Leu | Pro | Thr | Gly | Gln | Ala |
| 305 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 310 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 320 |
| Gln | Val | Ala | Val | His | Cys | Leu | Lys | Val | Pro | Lys | Ile | Ser | Cys | Gln | Asn |
| 325 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 325 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 335 |
| Arg | Gly | Val | Val | Val | Ser | Ser | Ser | Val | Ala | Val | Thr | Phe | Arg | Phe | Pro |
| 340 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 345 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 350 |
| Arg | Pro | Asp | Gly | Arg | Glu | Ala | Val | Ala | Tyr | Arg | Phe | Glu | Glu | Asp | Ile |
| 355 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 360 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 365 |
| Ile | Thr | Thr | Val | Gln | Ala | Ser | Tyr | Ser | Gln | Lys | Lys | Leu | Phe | Leu | His |
| 370 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 375 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 380 |
| Leu | Leu | Asp | Phe | Gln | Cys | Val | Pro | Ala | Ser | Gly | Arg | Ala | Gly | Ser | Ser |
| 385 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 390 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 400 |
| Ala | Asn | Leu | Ser | Val | Ala | Leu | Arg | Thr | Glu | Ala | Lys | Ala | Val | Ser | Asn |
| 405 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 410 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 415 |
| Leu | Thr | Glu | Ser | Arg | Ser | Glu | Ser | Leu | Gln | Ser | Ser | Leu | Arg | Ser | Leu |
| 420 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 425 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 430 |
| Ile | Ala | Thr | Val | Gly | Ile | Pro | Glu | Val | Met | Ser | Arg | Leu | Glu | Val | Ala |
| 435 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 440 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 445 |

Phe Thr Ala Leu Met Asn Ser Lys Gly Leu Asp Leu Phe Glu Ile Ile  
450 455 460

Asn Pro Glu Ile Ile Thr Leu Asp Gly Cys Leu Leu Leu Gln Met Asp  
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Phe Gly Phe Pro Lys His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser  
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ccggacgtc cgccggagag ggccgtatgt ctccctggcc gggtaagta cgggctgcac 180  
aacctccaga tcaaggccacct gtcacatggc agcagccagg tggagctgtt ggacgccaag 240  
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tacacgagtg cttgggggtt gggcatcaat cagtcgtgtcg acttcgagat cgactctgtcc 360  
attggacctcc agatcaacac agagctgtacc tcgcacgtcg gcaagtgtcg cacaatgtcc 420  
cccgactgtc acctgggtttt ccataaactcg ctccctgcacc tccaggggga ggcgcgagccg 480  
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ttcgaaatca tcaaaaaaaa gattatctact ctctgtgggt gcctgtgtt gcaatggac 1440  
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rabbit CETP protein

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Lys Pro Ala Leu Leu Val Leu Asn Gln Glu Thr Ala Lys Val Val Gln  
20 25 30

Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Gly Tyr Pro Asp Val Ser Gly Glu Arg Ala  
 35 40 45

Val Met Leu Leu Gly Arg Val Lys Tyr Gly Leu His Asn Leu Gln Ile  
50 55 60

Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Leu Val Asp Ala Lys  
 65                    70                    75                    80

Thr Ile Asp Val Ala Ile Gln Asn Val Ser Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr  
                   85                  90                  95

Leu Asn Tyr Ser Tyr Thr Ser Ala Trp Gly Leu Gly Ile Asn Gln Ser  
100 105 110

Val Asp Phe Glu Ile Asp Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Gln Ile Asn Thr Glu  
 115 120 125

Leu Thr Cys Asp Ala Gly Ser Val Arg Thr Asn Ala Pro Asp Cys Tyr  
 130 135 140

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Leu | Ala | Phe | His | Lys | Leu | Leu | Leu | His | Leu | Gln | Gly | Glu | Arg | Glu | Pro |
| 145 |     |     |     |     | 150 |     |     |     |     | 155 |     |     |     |     | 160 |

Gly Trp Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe Thr Asn Phe Ile Ser Phe Thr Leu Lys  
165 170 175

Leu Ile Leu Lys Arg Gln Val Cys Asn Glu Ile Asn Thr Ile Ser Asn  
180 185 190

Ile Met Ala Asp Phe Val Gln Thr Arg Ala Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser Asp  
195 200 205

Gly Asp Ile Gly Val Asp Ile Ser Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Ile Thr

210 215 220

Ala Thr Tyr Leu Glu Ser His His Lys Gly His Phe Thr His Lys Asn  
225 230 235 240

Val Ser Glu Ala Phe Pro Leu Arg Ala Phe Pro Pro Gly Leu Leu Gly  
245 250 255

Asp Ser Arg Met Leu Tyr Phe Trp Phe Ser Asp Gln Val Leu Asn Ser  
260 265 270

Leu Ala Arg Ala Ala Phe Gln Glu Gly Arg Leu Val Leu Ser Leu Thr  
275 280 285

Gly Asp Glu Phe Lys Lys Val Leu Glu Thr Gln Gly Phe Asp Thr Asn  
290 295 300

Gln Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Leu Ser Arg Gly Leu Pro Thr Gly Gln Ala  
305 310 315 320

Gln Val Ala Val His Cys Leu Lys Val Pro Lys Ile Ser Cys Gln Asn  
325 330 335

Arg Gly Val Val Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ala Val Thr Phe Arg Phe Pro  
340 345 350

Arg Pro Asp Gly Arg Glu Ala Val Ala Tyr Arg Phe Glu Glu Asp Ile  
355 360 365

Ile Thr Thr Val Gln Ala Ser Tyr Ser Gln Lys Lys Leu Phe Leu His  
370 375 380

Leu Leu Asp Phe Gln Cys Val Pro Lys Ala Val Ser Asn Leu Thr Glu  
385 390 395 400

Ser Arg Ser Glu Ser Leu Gln Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Leu Ile Ala Thr  
405 410 415

Val Gly Ile Pro Glu Val Met Ser Arg Leu Glu Val Ala Phe Thr Ala  
420 425 430

Leu Met Asn Ser Lys Gly Leu Asp Leu Phe Glu Ile Ile Asn Pro Glu  
435 440 445

Ile Ile Thr Leu Asp Gly Cys Leu Leu Leu Gln Met Asp Phe Gly Phe  
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Pro Lys His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser

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rabbit CETP protein

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Lys Pro Ala Leu Leu Val Leu Asn Gln Glu Thr Ala Lys Val Val Gln  
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Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Gly Tyr Pro Asp Val Ser Gly Glu Arg Ala  
35 40 45

Val Met Leu Leu Gly Arg Val Lys Tyr Gly Leu His Asn Leu Gln Ile  
50 55 60

Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Leu Val Asp Ala Lys  
65 70 75 80

Thr Ile Asp Val Ala Ile Gln Asn Val Ser Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr  
85 90 95

Leu Asn Tyr Ser Tyr Thr Ser Ala Trp Gly Leu Gly Ile Asn Gln Ser  
100 105 110

Val Asp Phe Glu Ile Asp Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Gln Ile Asn Thr Glu  
115 120 125

Leu Thr Cys Asp Ala Gly Ser Val Arg Thr Asn Ala Pro Asp Cys Tyr  
130 135 140

Leu Ala Phe His Lys Leu Leu Leu His Leu Gln Gly Glu Arg Glu Pro  
145 150 155 160

Gly Trp Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe Thr Asn Phe Ile Ser Phe Thr Leu Lys  
165 170 175

Leu Ile Leu Lys Arg Gln Val Cys Asn Glu Ile Asn Thr Ile Ser Asn  
180 185 190

Ile Met Ala Asp Phe Val Gln Thr Arg Ala Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser Asp  
195 200 205

Gly Asp Ile Gly Val Asp Ile Ser Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Ile Thr  
210 215 220

Ala Thr Tyr Leu Glu Ser His His Lys Gly His Phe Thr His Lys Asn  
225 230 235 240

Val Ser Glu Ala Phe Pro Leu Arg Ala Phe Pro Pro Gly Leu Leu Gly  
245 250 255

Asp Ser Arg Met Leu Tyr Phe Trp Phe Ser Asp Gln Val Leu Asn Ser  
260 265 270

Leu Ala Arg Ala Ala Phe Gln Glu Gly Arg Leu Val Leu Ser Leu Thr  
275 280 285

Gly Asp Glu Phe Lys Lys Val Leu Glu Thr Gln Gly Phe Asp Thr Asn  
290 295 300

Gln Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Leu Ser Arg Gly Leu Pro Thr Gly Gln Ala  
305 310 315 320

Gln Val Ala Val His Cys Leu Lys Val Pro Lys Ile Ser Cys Gln Asn  
325 330 335

Arg Gly Val Val Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ala Val Thr Phe Arg Phe Pro  
340 345 350

Arg Pro Asp Gly Arg Glu Ala Val Ala Tyr Arg Phe Glu Glu Asp Ile  
355 360 365

Ile Thr Thr Val Gln Ala Ser Tyr Ser Gln Lys Lys Leu Phe Leu His  
370 375 380

Leu Leu Asp Phe Gln Cys Val Pro Ala Ser Gly Arg Ala Gly Ser Ser  
385 390 395 400

Ala Asn Leu Ser Val Ala Leu Arg Thr Glu Ala Lys Ala Val Ser Asn  
405 410 415

Leu Thr Glu Ser Arg Ser Glu Ser Leu Gln Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Leu  
420 425 430

Ile Ala Thr Val Gly Ile Pro Glu Val Met Ser Arg Leu Glu Val Ala  
435 440 445

Phe Thr Ala Leu Met Asn Ser Lys Gly Leu Asp Leu Phe Glu Ile Ile  
450 455 460

Asn Pro Glu Ile Ile Thr Leu Asp Gly Cys Leu Leu Leu Gln Met Asp  
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fusion protein containing tetanus toxoid segment  
linked to human CETP C-terminus

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1 5 10 15

Gly Phe Pro Glu His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser  
20 25 30

## SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Rittershaus, Charles W.  
Thomas, Lawrence J.  
Avant Immunotherapeutics, Inc.

<120> Xenogeneic Cholesteryl Ester Transfer Protein (CETP)  
for Modulation of CETP Activity

<130> TCS-420.1 PCT seqlist

<140> PCT/US98/22145  
<141> 1998-10-20

<150> 08/954,643  
<151> 1997-10-20

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<170> PatentIn Ver. 2.0

<210> 1  
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<301> Drayna, Dennis  
<302> Cloning and Sequencing of Human Cholesteryl Ester  
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<306> 632-634  
<307> 1987-06-18  
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Lys Pro Ala Leu Leu Val Leu Asn His Glu Thr Ala Lys Val Ile Gln  
20 25 30

Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Ser Tyr Pro Asp Ile Thr Gly Glu Lys Ala  
35 40 45

Met Met Leu Leu Gly Gln Val Lys Tyr Gly Leu His Asn Ile Gln Ile  
50 55 60

Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Leu Val Glu Ala Lys  
 65 70 75 80

Ser Ile Asp Val Ser Ile Gln Asn Val Ser Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr  
 85 90 95

Leu Lys Tyr Gly Tyr Thr Thr Ala Trp Trp Leu Gly Ile Asp Gln Ser  
 100 105 110

Ile Asp Phe Glu Ile Asp Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Gln Ile Asn Thr Gln  
 115 120 125

Leu Thr Cys Asp Ser Gly Arg Val Arg Thr Asp Ala Pro Asp Cys Tyr  
 130 135 140

Leu Ser Phe His Lys Leu Leu Leu His Leu Gln Gly Glu Arg Glu Pro  
 145 150 155 160

Gly Trp Ile Lys Gln Leu Phe Thr Asn Phe Ile Ser Phe Thr Leu Lys  
 165 170 175

Leu Val Leu Lys Gly Gln Ile Cys Lys Glu Ile Asn Val Ile Ser Asn  
 180 185 190

Ile Met Ala Asp Phe Val Gln Thr Arg Ala Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser Asp  
 195 200 205

Gly Asp Ile Gly Val Asp Ile Ser Leu Thr Gly Asp Pro Val Ile Thr  
 210 215 220

Ala Ser Tyr Leu Glu Ser His His Lys Gly His Phe Ile Tyr Lys Asn  
 225 230 235 240

Val Ser Glu Asp Leu Pro Leu Pro Thr Phe Ser Pro Thr Leu Leu Gly  
 245 250 255

Asp Ser Arg Met Leu Tyr Phe Trp Phe Ser Glu Arg Val Phe His Ser  
 260 265 270

Leu Ala Lys Val Ala Phe Gln Asp Gly Arg Leu Met Leu Ser Leu Met  
 275 280 285

Gly Asp Glu Phe Lys Ala Val Leu Glu Thr Trp Gly Phe Asn Thr Asn  
 290 295 300

Gln Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Val Val Gly Phe Pro Ser Gln Ala Gln  
 305 310 315 320

Val Thr Val His Cys Leu Lys Met Pro Lys Ile Ser Cys Gln Asn Lys  
 325 330 335

Gly Val Val Val Asn Ser Ser Val Met Val Lys Phe Leu Phe Pro Arg  
 340 345 350

Pro Asp Gln Gln His Ser Val Ala Tyr Thr Phe Glu Glu Asp Ile Val  
 355 360 365

Thr Thr Val Gln Ala Ser Tyr Ser Lys Lys Lys Leu Phe Leu Ser Leu  
 370 375 380

Leu Asp Phe Gln Ile Thr Pro Lys Thr Val Ser Asn Leu Thr Glu Ser  
 385 390 395 400

Ser Ser Glu Ser Ile Gln Ser Phe Leu Gln Ser Met Ile Thr Ala Val  
 405 410 415

Gly Ile Pro Glu Val Met Ser Arg Leu Glu Val Val Phe Thr Ala Leu  
 420 425 430

Met Asn Ser Lys Gly Val Ser Leu Phe Asp Ile Ile Asn Pro Glu Ile  
 435 440 445

Ile Thr Arg Asp Gly Phe Leu Leu Leu Gln Met Asp Phe Gly Phe Pro  
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Glu His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser  
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<212> DNA

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<301> Drayna, Dennis

<302> Cloning and Sequencing of Human Cholestry1 Ester  
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<303> Nature

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<307> 1987-06-18

<313> 1 TO 476

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211 496

212 PBT

<213> *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

5300>

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<302> Cloning and mRNA tissue distribution of rabbit cholestryl ester transfer protein

5303 J. Lipid Res.

1304 > 39

48011 23

-307- 1888

4387 1986

1400> 3

Cys Pro Lys Gly Ala Ser Tyr Glu Ala Gly Ile Val Cys Arg Ile Thr  
1 5 10 15

Lys Pro Ala Leu Leu Val Leu Asn Gln Glu Thr Ala Lys Val Val Gln  
 20 25 30

Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Gly Tyr Pro Asp Val Ser Gly Glu Arg Ala

35

40

45

Val Met Leu Leu Gly Arg Val Lys Tyr Gly Leu His Asn Leu Gln Ile  
 50 55 60

Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Leu Val Asp Ala Lys  
 65 70 75 80

Thr Ile Asp Val Ala Ile Gln Asn Val Ser Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr  
 85 90 95

Leu Asn Tyr Ser Tyr Thr Ser Ala Trp Gly Leu Gly Ile Asn Gln Ser  
 100 105 110

Val Asp Phe Glu Ile Asp Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Gln Ile Asn Thr Glu  
 115 120 125

Leu Thr Cys Asp Ala Gly Ser Val Arg Thr Asn Ala Pro Asp Cys Tyr  
 130 135 140

Leu Ala Phe His Lys Leu Leu Leu His Leu Gln Gly Glu Arg Glu Pro  
 145 150 155 160

Gly Trp Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe Thr Asn Phe Ile Ser Phe Thr Leu Lys  
 165 170 175

Leu Ile Leu Lys Arg Gln Val Cys Asn Glu Ile Asn Thr Ile Ser Asn  
 180 185 190

Ile Met Ala Asp Phe Val Gln Thr Arg Ala Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser Asp  
 195 200 205

Gly Asp Ile Gly Val Asp Ile Ser Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Ile Thr  
 210 215 220

Ala Thr Tyr Leu Glu Ser His His Lys Gly His Phe Thr His Lys Asn  
 225 230 235 240

Val Ser Glu Ala Phe Pro Leu Arg Ala Phe Pro Pro Gly Leu Leu Gly  
 245 250 255

Asp Ser Arg Met Leu Tyr Phe Trp Phe Ser Asp Gln Val Leu Asn Ser  
 260 265 270

Leu Ala Arg Ala Ala Phe Gln Glu Gly Arg Leu Val Leu Ser Leu Thr  
 275 280 285

Gly Asp Glu Phe Lys Lys Val Leu Glu Thr Gln Gly Phe Asp Thr Asn

|   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| 290   | 295 | 300 |
| Gln Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Leu Ser Arg Gly Leu Pro Thr Gly Gln Ala |     |     |
| 305   | 310 | 315 |
| 320   |     |     |
| Gln Val Ala Val His Cys Leu Lys Val Pro Lys Ile Ser Cys Gln Asn |     |     |
| 325   | 330 | 335 |
| Arg Gly Val Val Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ala Val Thr Phe Arg Phe Pro |     |     |
| 340   | 345 | 350 |
| Arg Pro Asp Gly Arg Glu Ala Val Ala Tyr Arg Phe Glu Glu Asp Ile |     |     |
| 355   | 360 | 365 |
| Ile Thr Thr Val Gln Ala Ser Tyr Ser Gln Lys Lys Leu Phe Leu His |     |     |
| 370   | 375 | 380 |
| Leu Leu Asp Phe Gln Cys Val Pro Ala Ser Gly Arg Ala Gly Ser Ser |     |     |
| 385   | 390 | 395 |
| 400   |     |     |
| Ala Asn Leu Ser Val Ala Leu Arg Thr Glu Ala Lys Ala Val Ser Asn |     |     |
| 405   | 410 | 415 |
| Leu Thr Glu Ser Arg Ser Glu Ser Leu Gln Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Leu |     |     |
| 420   | 425 | 430 |
| Ile Ala Thr Val Gly Ile Pro Glu Val Met Ser Arg Leu Glu Val Ala |     |     |
| 435   | 440 | 445 |
| Phe Thr Ala Leu Met Asn Ser Lys Gly Leu Asp Leu Phe Glu Ile Ile |     |     |
| 450   | 455 | 460 |
| Asn Pro Glu Ile Ile Thr Leu Asp Gly Cys Leu Leu Leu Gln Met Asp |     |     |
| 465   | 470 | 475 |
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| Phe Gly Phe Pro Lys His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser |     |     |
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 <211> 1488  
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<301> Nagashima, Mariko  
<302> Cloning and mRNA tissue distribution of rabbit  
cholesterol ester transfer protein  
<303> J. Lipid Res.  
<304> 29  
<306> 1643-1649  
<307> 1988  
<313> 1 TO 496

<400> 4

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tacacggatg ctgggggtt gggcatca cagtcgttg acttcggatg ctggcttcg 360  
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<211> 477

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: humanized  
rabbit CETP protein

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Lys Pro Ala Leu Leu Val Leu Asn Gln Glu Thr Ala Lys Val Val Gln  
 20 25 30

Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Gly Tyr Pro Asp Val Ser Gly Glu Arg Ala  
 35 40 45

Val Met Leu Leu Gly Arg Val Lys Tyr Gly Leu His Asn Leu Gln Ile  
 50 55 60

Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Leu Val Asp Ala Lys  
 65 70 75 80

Thr Ile Asp Val Ala Ile Gln Asn Val Ser Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr  
 85 90 95

Leu Asn Tyr Ser Tyr Thr Ser Ala Trp Gly Leu Gly Ile Asn Gln Ser  
 100 105 110

Val Asp Phe Glu Ile Asp Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Gln Ile Asn Thr Glu  
 115 120 125

Leu Thr Cys Asp Ala Gly Ser Val Arg Thr Asn Ala Pro Asp Cys Tyr  
 130 135 140

Leu Ala Phe His Lys Leu Leu Leu His Leu Gln Gly Glu Arg Glu Pro  
 145 150 155 160

Gly Trp Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe Thr Asn Phe Ile Ser Phe Thr Leu Lys  
 165 170 175

Leu Ile Leu Lys Arg Gln Val Cys Asn Glu Ile Asn Thr Ile Ser Asn  
 180 185 190

Ile Met Ala Asp Phe Val Gln Thr Arg Ala Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser Asp  
 195 200 205

Gly Asp Ile Gly Val Asp Ile Ser Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Ile Thr  
 210 215 220

Ala Thr Tyr Leu Glu Ser His His Lys Gly His Phe Thr His Lys Asn  
 225 230 235 240

Val Ser Glu Ala Phe Pro Leu Arg Ala Phe Pro Pro Gly Leu Leu Gly  
 245 250 255

Asp Ser Arg Met Leu Tyr Phe Trp Phe Ser Asp Gln Val Leu Asn Ser  
 260 265 270

Leu Ala Arg Ala Ala Phe Gln Glu Gly Arg Leu Val Leu Ser Leu Thr  
275 280 285

Gly Asp Glu Phe Lys Lys Val Leu Glu Thr Gln Gly Phe Asp Thr Asn  
290 295 300

Gln Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Leu Ser Arg Gly Leu Pro Thr Gly Gln Ala  
305 310 315 320

Gln Val Ala Val His Cys Leu Lys Val Pro Lys Ile Ser Cys Gln Asn  
325 330 335

Arg Gly Val Val Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ala Val Thr Phe Arg Phe Pro  
340 345 350

Arg Pro Asp Gly Arg Glu Ala Val Ala Tyr Arg Phe Glu Glu Asp Ile  
355 360 365

Ile Thr Thr Val Gln Ala Ser Tyr Ser Gln Lys Lys Leu Phe Leu His  
370 375 380

Leu Leu Asp Phe Gln Cys Val Pro Lys Ala Val Ser Asn Leu Thr Glu  
385 390 395 400

Ser Arg Ser Glu Ser Leu Gln Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Leu Ile Ala Thr  
405 410 415

Val Gly Ile Pro Glu Val Met Ser Arg Leu Glu Val Ala Phe Thr Ala  
420 425 430

Leu Met Asn Ser Lys Gly Leu Asp Leu Phe Glu Ile Ile Asn Pro Glu  
435 440 445

Ile Ile Thr Leu Asp Gly Cys Leu Leu Leu Gln Met Asp Phe Gly Phe  
450 455 460

Pro Lys His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser  
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<210> 6  
<211> 496  
<212> PRT  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: humanized

## rabbit CETP protein

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 20 25 30  
 Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Ala Gly Tyr Pro Asp Val Ser Gly Glu Arg Ala  
 35 40 45  
 Val Met Leu Leu Gly Arg Val Lys Tyr Gly Leu His Asn Leu Gln Ile  
 50 55 60  
 Ser His Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Ser Gln Val Glu Leu Val Asp Ala Lys  
 65 70 75 80  
 Thr Ile Asp Val Ala Ile Gln Asn Val Ser Val Val Phe Lys Gly Thr  
 85 90 95  
 Leu Asn Tyr Ser Tyr Thr Ser Ala Trp Gly Leu Gly Ile Asn Gln Ser  
 100 105 110  
 Val Asp Phe Glu Ile Asp Ser Ala Ile Asp Leu Gln Ile Asn Thr Glu  
 115 120 125  
 Leu Thr Cys Asp Ala Gly Ser Val Arg Thr Asn Ala Pro Asp Cys Tyr  
 130 135 140  
 Leu Ala Phe His Lys Leu Leu Leu His Leu Gln Gly Glu Arg Glu Pro  
 145 150 155 160  
 Gly Trp Leu Lys Gln Leu Phe Thr Asn Phe Ile Ser Phe Thr Leu Lys  
 165 170 175  
 Leu Ile Leu Lys Arg Gln Val Cys Asn Glu Ile Asn Thr Ile Ser Asn  
 180 185 190  
 Ile Met Ala Asp Phe Val Gln Thr Arg Ala Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser Asp  
 195 200 205  
 Gly Asp Ile Gly Val Asp Ile Ser Val Thr Gly Ala Pro Val Ile Thr  
 210 215 220  
 Ala Thr Tyr Leu Glu Ser His His Lys Gly His Phe Thr His Lys Asn  
 225 230 235 240

Val Ser Glu Ala Phe Pro Leu Arg Ala Phe Pro Pro Gly Leu Leu Gly  
 245 250 255

Asp Ser Arg Met Leu Tyr Phe Trp Phe Ser Asp Gln Val Leu Asn Ser  
 260 265 270

Leu Ala Arg Ala Ala Phe Gln Glu Gly Arg Leu Val Leu Ser Leu Thr  
 275 280 285

Gly Asp Glu Phe Lys Lys Val Leu Glu Thr Gln Gly Phe Asp Thr Asn  
 290 295 300

Gln Glu Ile Phe Gln Glu Leu Ser Arg Gly Leu Pro Thr Gly Gln Ala  
 305 310 315 320

Gln Val Ala Val His Cys Leu Lys Val Pro Lys Ile Ser Cys Gln Asn  
 325 330 335

Arg Gly Val Val Val Ser Ser Ser Val Ala Val Thr Phe Arg Phe Pro  
 340 345 350

Arg Pro Asp Gly Arg Glu Ala Val Ala Tyr Arg Phe Glu Glu Asp Ile  
 355 360 365

Ile Thr Thr Val Gln Ala Ser Tyr Ser Gln Lys Lys Leu Phe Leu His  
 370 375 380

Leu Leu Asp Phe Gln Cys Val Pro Ala Ser Gly Arg Ala Gly Ser Ser  
 385 390 395 400

Ala Asn Leu Ser Val Ala Leu Arg Thr Glu Ala Lys Ala Val Ser Asn  
 405 410 415

Leu Thr Glu Ser Arg Ser Glu Ser Leu Gln Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Leu  
 420 425 430

Ile Ala Thr Val Gly Ile Pro Glu Val Met Ser Arg Leu Glu Val Ala  
 435 440 445

Phe Thr Ala Leu Met Asn Ser Lys Gly Leu Asp Leu Phe Glu Ile Ile  
 450 455 460

Asn Pro Glu Ile Ile Thr Leu Asp Gly Cys Leu Leu Leu Gln Met Asp  
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Phe Gly Phe Pro Glu His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser  
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<210> 7  
<211> 31  
<212> PRT  
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>  
<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: fusion protein  
of a tetanus toxoid segment and human CETP  
C-terminus

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Cys Gln Tyr Ile Lys Ala Asn Ser Lys Phe Ile Gly Ile Thr Glu Phe  
1 5 10 15  
Gly Phe Pro Glu His Leu Leu Val Asp Phe Leu Gln Ser Leu Ser  
20 25 30